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Telangana Today

PEOPLE'S VOICE

FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

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HYDERABAD EDITION
Vol. 8 | No. 282 | Pages 12

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Kejriwal targets RSS over Modi's actions

WORLD | PAGE 09

Hezbollah declares 'open-ended battle'

Outfit warns Israel of unexpected attacks 'from outside the box'

SPORT | PAGE 10

India thump Bangladesh by 280 runs in first Test

In a nutshell

Chess Olympiad: India bag gold

BUDAPEST: India scripted history in the Chess Olympiad as its men's and women's teams clinched their maiden titles in a rare clean sweep of gold medals after beating their respective opponents in the final round. The men's team defeated Slovenia 3.5-0.5 while their women counterparts crushed Azerbaijan with an identical margin in the 11th and final round in the Chess Olympiad. SPORT PAGE 11

Dissanayake wins Lanka Prez poll

COLOMBO: Marxist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake was declared winner of the Sri Lankan presidential election by the country's Election Commission after an unprecedented second round of counting of votes. Dissanayake, 56, the leader of the Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna party's broader front NPP, defeated his closest rival Sajith Premadasa of SJB. WORLD PAGE 9

State braces for heavy rains

HYDERABAD: Telangana is likely to witness heavy rainfall over next three days as the IMD-Hyderabad issued a yellow alert for the state. Several districts, including Hyderabad, are expected to witness heavy downpours along with thunderstorms, lightning, and squalls from September 23 to 25. For Hyderabad, the IMD has forecast cloudy skies until Wednesday, predicting light to moderate rains. HYDERABAD PAGE 3

Gas cylinder found on rail track in UP

KANPUR: An empty gas cylinder was found on the tracks by a goods train loco pilot near Prempur railway station in Kanpur, the second such incident in Uttar Pradesh this month. In another incident, ten detonators recently went off on tracks in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa, prompting the authorities to briefly halt a "military special train", officials said. NATION PAGE 8

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 120
Retail live	Rs. 142
With skin	Rs. 206
Skinless	Rs. 234
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 74

'Taal filled the void'

Andrew Lloyd Webber offered AR Rahman *Bombay Dreams* after listening to romance drama's soundtrack, says maestro 12

Uncertainty continues over Rythu Bharosa

Congress-led government yet to deliver on its promise

PS DILEEP
HYDERABAD

Farmers in Telangana are grappling with uncertainty as the Congress-led government continues to delay the promised financial support under the Rythu Bharosa scheme.

The Congress, which pledged Rs 15,000 per acre per annum as farm investment support if it came to power, is yet to deliver on its promise. Many farmers, already frustrated by incomplete loan waivers, are sceptical about whether the Rythu Bharosa funds will materialise in the absence of guidelines for its implementation.

Though the State government appointed a three-member Cabinet sub-committee to look into the issues and submit a report, none is aware of its fate. The Cabinet sub-committee held around four to five consultations with some stakeholders, including farmers, during July-August, but the report neither reached the State Cabinet for approval nor was discussed in the Assembly as promised for its launch. Citing the absence of guidelines and other technicalities, the State government provided only Rs 5,000 per acre for the previous Yasangi rather than the promised Rs 7,500 per acre.

Further, the amount was released only at the fag-end of the season. For the current Vanakalam, which concludes by this month-end, the government has kept postponing the disbursement throughout the season.

Now, fresh reports suggest that the State government might disburse Rythu Bharosa amount for the two crop seasons of Vanakalam and Yasangi by Dasara, raising hopes for timely support. However, there has been no official announcement in this regard, indicating no immediate relief. "If not two, at least one crop payment should be released to help farmers to aid the upcoming Yasangi sowing period. Many farmers struggled due to lack of support in July for this Vanakalam season," farmers appealed. However, concerns remain over the scheme's implementation guidelines, particularly for large farmers. There are fears that only those with less than 10 acres may be eligible, leaving larger landholders without support. Additionally, government employees might be excluded.

With regard to the tenant farmers, who were also promised Rs 15,000 per acre per annum, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao already indicated that both the land owner and tenant farmer should reach an understanding in this regard. For the amount to be credited into the tenant farmer's account, the State government is likely to ask them to submit their lease agreement in this regard, raising curtains for more complexities. (SEE PAGE 2)

'Selfie for loan waiver' launched in Dubbak

SIDDIPET : Farmers in the district launched a 'selfie for loan waiver' campaign in the Dubbak constituency on Sunday. The campaign is expected to spread all over the district starting Monday as it was drawing a great response from farmers.

Farmers, supported by BRS leaders, launched the campaign at Dharmaram village in Mirudoddi mandal. Though it is a tiny village, about 200 farmers gathered at the centre when the BRS leaders arrived to interact with them. The farmers, who borrowed more than Rs 2 lakh, had repaid the additional amount to banks, but many were yet to get the waiver. They also said several farmers in the village had not yet got the loan waiver.

Speaking on the occasion, BRS leader Thota Kamalakar Reddy said they wanted to take the real situation at the ground level to the notice of the people and government. (SEE PAGE 2)

'Quad not against anyone, it will stay'

Modi says free, prosperous Indo-Pacific priority

WILMINGTON

US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Archmere Academy in Claymont, Delaware. — Photo: PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Quad is not against anyone, but for a rules-based international order and respect for sovereignty, in a veiled reference to China. "Free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific is our priority," Modi said in his opening remarks at the summit hosted by President Joe Biden and also attended by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

"We are not against anyone. We all support a rules-based international order, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peaceful resolution of all issues," Modi said, without naming any country. China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. China claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea.

Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims. "Our message is clear — Quad is here to stay, to assist, to partner and to complement," Modi said. "Together we have taken many positive and inclusive initiatives in areas such as health security, critical and emerging technologies, climate change, capacity building," he said. He said that the Quad leaders have gathered at a time when the world is surrounded by tensions and conflicts. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 8)

'China testing us', Biden caught on mic telling Quad leaders

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden was caught on a hot mic telling leaders of Quad nations that China was testing them, thus reflecting upon the American seriousness of the emerging Chinese threat. Biden's remark came during the Quad Leaders' Summit, which was attended by PM Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida. "We believe Xi Jinping is looking to focus on domestic economic challenges and minimise the turbulence in China," Biden told the leaders at the Summit. PTI

Will quit politics if proved wrong, KTR on Amrut scam

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

> I am ready to approach the High Court Chief Justice seeking a judicial probe into the scam
>
> — KT RAMA RAO
> BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

Sticking to his guns, BRS working president KT Rama Rao has thrown down the gauntlet to Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy challenging him to prove there was no wrongdoing in the Amrut 2.0 tenders.

He offered to quit politics if he was proved wrong on his allegation that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's family was behind the Rs 8,888 crore scam.

Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan here on Sunday, the former Minister called for an immediate inquiry by a sitting judge or by referring it to the High Court Chief Justice. Coming down heavily on the Minister for his bid to defend the Chief Minister in the issue, he said he was ready to approach the High Court Chief Justice seeking a judicial probe into the scam.

If the Minister had difficulty in approaching the Chief Justice, he could approach the Central Chief Vigilance Commissioner. The Minister could join him at a time of his convenience to approach either of the two while emphasising the need for transparency and accountability. He wanted cancellation of the tenders if any wrongdoing was found. (SEE PAGE 2)

HYDRAA's 'selective' act draws ire

Structures demolished by the HYDRAA at Nalla Cheruvu in Kukatpally of Hyderabad on Sunday. (right) A man distraught following the demolition. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency's (HYDRAA) demolition spree on Sunday triggered criticism from different sections over its selective targets, leaving no options for the owners to seek legal help.

Many questioned the State government and HYDRAA, in particular, over its discriminative approach towards the poor and middle income groups while providing sufficient time for high-income groups and persons close to the powers that be.

Emotional scenes unfolded at Nalla Cheruvu, Kukatpally, Kistareddypet and Patelguda of Ameenpur mandal on Sunday when HYDRAA demolished a few structures. Sharing a video of a woman crying inconsolably at a demolition site on X, one used, AdityaWarangal, said, "Chief Minister saab people do small business by raising loans. Imagine the hardwork, if a family invests Rs 50 lakh in catering stall. It is unfortunate that they were not even given time to collect their belongings."

Many compared this to the long rope being extended to others, especially Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's brother A Tirupathi Reddy, who was served a notice more than a month ago citing his house was in the FTL of Durgam Cheruvu. The Revenue Department served notices to house owners in the Amar Cooperative Society, Kavuri Hills, Kalyan Nagar and other areas on August 8 stating that their structures were in FTL and the buffer zone of Durgam Cheruvu. (SEE PAGES 2, 3)

Defer Mains exam: Group-I aspirants

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

> Say the examination, scheduled to be held from October 21, should be put off till all pending cases are settled in High Court

The Group-I aspirants want the Congress government to put off the Main examination, scheduled to be held from October 21, till all pending legal cases are settled in the High Court.

The candidates, who qualified for Mains, questioned the government as to how it would hold the examination when around 14 cases against Group-I were pending in the High Court with upcoming hearings before the bench.

A total of 3.02 lakh candidates appeared for the Group-I prelims conducted on June 9. Following the examination, the Telangana Public Service Commission issued a preliminary key, which attracted 6,417 objections from 1,712 candidates. Overall, objections were raised on 13 questions on the final key, aspirants said.

After releasing the prelims results, the TGPSC selected 31,382 candidates in a 1:50 ratio for the Main examination scheduled to be held from October 21 to 27. Currently, cases are pending on the prelims final key, GO 29, local area and ST reservation in the High Court. While the hearing on the final key and GO 29 is scheduled for September 27, cases on horizontal reservation and non-local are expected to be heard on November 7 and 27, respectively.

If the court rules in favour of candidates after conducting exam, candidates wonder how the government would implement such directions. "Hence, we want the government to defer exam until all cases are settled in the court. If not, we will be compelled to take the Main again if the court cancels prelims. Given the extensive syllabus and six papers to write, preparing and appearing for the examination is no cakewalk," said an aspirant.

Burglars flee with Rs 2 crore cash, 30 tolas gold

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In one of the biggest burglaries reported in recent times in the city, unidentified persons made away with Rs 2 crore in cash and around 30 tolas of gold ornaments from a house at Pocharam on Sunday. The police formed special teams to identify the suspects. (REPORT PAGE 3)

Guinness honour for Chiru

HYDERABAD

Actor Chiranjeevi receiving Guinness World Records certificate as the most prolific film star in the Indian film industry.

Megastar K Chiranjeevi on Sunday received the Guinness World Records certificate as the most prolific film star in the Indian film industry. A representative of the Guinness World Records handed over the certificate to Chiranjeevi at an event.

"The most prolific film star in Indian Film Industry-actor/dancer is Konidela Chiranjeevi aka Mega Star (India) achieved on 20 September 2024," said a certificate issued by the Guinness World Records. "I never expected to get Guinness World Records. All these years of my film career, dance had become part of my life," Chiranjeevi said. (SEE PAGE 2)

AP forms SIT to probe laddu row

AMARAVATI

Hitting out at the previous YSRCP government, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday alleged that several procedures to procure ghee at Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) were altered during the earlier regime, prompting him to form a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the irregularities. He also alleged that appointments to the TTD board became like "gambling" during the previous government and there were instances of appointing people who had no faith and giving preferences to non-Hindus on the board.

Addressing a press conference at his Undavalli residence, the CM said people's sentiments were hurt after the revelations with regard to laddu that animal fats were allegedly used to make them. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

FORECAST
Rain or thundershowers would occur towards evening or night

Max. tem: 32.0°C
Min. tem: 21.4°C
RH: 65%
Rainfall: 61.5 mm

In Brief

HYDERABAD

Last date for web options

The last date to exercise web options for allotment of degree seats via DOST intra-college phase-III is September 23. The intra-college counselling is meant for students who wish to change their course in the same college. The seat allotment is scheduled for September 24. Students should report to the college with the new allotment order.

HYDERABAD

CPGET-2024 counselling

The deadline for registering for second phase CPGET 2024 admission counselling is September 27. Web options will be open from Oct 1 to 4 and they can be edited on Oct 5. The seat allotment is on Oct 9 and candidates should report to the colleges on or before Oct 17. For details, visit https://cpget. ouadmissions.com/.

HYDERABAD

GCF regional chapter

The Global Construction Fraternity (GCF) launched its Hyderabad regional chapter, marking a significant milestone to unite and empower construction professionals. The launch 'Constructing Connections' attracted the industry's most respected leaders at an event in Salarpuria Sattva Knowledge City, Madhapur.

Breathing life into discarded waste!

The event showcased sustainability and regenerative art

The event at Orange Tree featured around 170 works from 11 artists across the country. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

SRUTHI KURUGANTI
HYDERABAD

Sustainability and regenerative art took centre stage at Orange Tree on September 21, as the eco-conscious home décor and furniture store hosted a groundbreaking collaboration with Raw Collaborative. This one-of-a-kind collaboration brought together modern design innovation and traditional craftsmanship, showcasing the potential of regenerative and sustainable art.

The event featured around 170 works from 11 artists across the country and highlighted how art can align with environmental responsibility. Kicking off at 11 am, attendees were treated to a pop-up exhibition filled with creations that blurred the lines between sustainability and artistry. "The aim is to show that waste can also be transformed into art. Regenerative art is about breathing new life into often discarded materials and demonstrating the incredible beauty that can emerge from them," said Preeyaa Jain, vice president of Orange Tree. "It's not just about art for art's sake — it's about creating something meaningful for the future."

> **"The aim is to show that waste can also be transformed into art. It's not just about art for art's sake — it's about creating something meaningful for the future."**
> — **PREEYA JAIN,** vice-president, Orange Tree

Among the featured artists were Parth Kothekar, whose intricate paper-cut wall art emphasized minimal waste, and Noya (Ujjval Shah), whose regenerative textile designs explored the balance between craftsmanship and environmental stewardship. Abstract (Brinda Patel) also stood out with her sustainable home linens, exemplifying the beauty of slow fashion. Ceramics took the spotlight as well, with sculptural works by MSN Pottery Studio (Manpreet Singh) and Kalabindu Ceramic Studios (Goutham Vavilala), offering a modern take on traditional pottery methods while staying mindful of environmental impacts.

The event also featured fine canvas paintings by artists Padma Reddy and Rajeshwara Rao, alongside Studio Dragonfly's (Nehal Raanch) thought-provoking artworks. High-end ceramic tableware by Abaca Studio (Mohammed & Rasheeda) and regenerative textile creations by Soft Story (Sangita Khalsa) completed the eclectic, sustainability-driven collection.

One of the event's highlights was the unveiling of an intricate woodwork installation by Yamin Mustafa Mohiuddin. His regenerative design, crafted entirely from sustainably sourced wood, captivated the audience and demonstrated the possibilities of eco-conscious art.

Beyond celebrating artistry, the event also served as an educational platform. Over 250 students from NIFT Hyderabad and Hamstech were invited for a guided walk-through led by the artists themselves, providing young designers with valuable insights into sustainable design practices. The day wrapped up with an evening gathering, where a soulful Sitar recital set the stage for creative networking, igniting a dialogue on the importance of regenerative art in shaping sustainable futures.

GAME ON

Castles: infra construction, resource gathering combo

The challenge is to keep everyone at a uniform level of satisfaction

Castles, the third of Bethesda's experiments with free-to-play (f2p) games in the Elder Scrolls franchise, is a successor to 2017's card-collecting game, Legends, and 2019's multiplayer Action RPG Blades. A nation-builder in the style of the Age of Empires of old, it combines resource gathering and infrastructure construction with a decision-based ruling system in a Fallout Shelter-style format.

You build your nation inside the walls of a Castle after succeeding a king (assassinated for a love affair gone wrong) and are expected to guide the nation and its people through the chaos. Building kitchens, oil mills, foundries, sewing machines, and forges is part of the game as you find ways to occupy your citizens and survive on the throne.

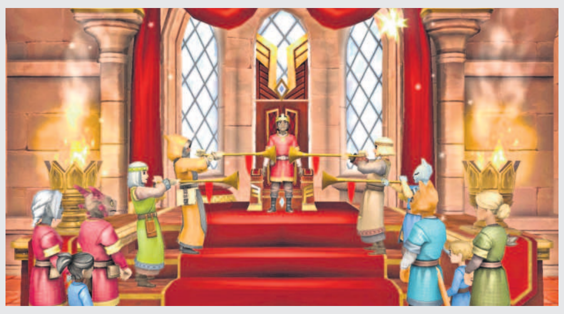
Not much about Castles' gameplay is novel up to this stage – however, the Bethesda touch emerges when you begin to make "rulings" and strive to find the right balance to keep all your subjects happy. The society in the game is split into commoners and nobility and often a decision that makes one section happy angers the other – the challenge is to keep everyone at a uniform level of satisfaction to not be usurped. Time in the game works uniquely, each day you log in is a different year of your reign and the tasks vary accordingly.

The game also offers players login rewards and rewards for leveling up the kingdom. In terms of gameplay, the building mechanics are quite intuitive and the use of staircases and partitions in the castle adds a novel touch. However, things get complicated once you begin to engage with your citizens.

The game allows players to construct a bed and a statue of worship. Citizens can either be married at the statue or assigned to the bed to court each other and have children. While the power to decide which citizen could procreate can be difficult to come to terms with for players, children born out of the arrangement need time (i.e. several daily logins) to grow into fully functional citizens.

The game allows you to accelerate growth and production using potions, but it is not just unnecessarily complex but also problematic to think about. Similarly, the combat system here is limited to only a few designated citizens, but for the triggering of special moves, it is automated and the entire aspect of the game comes across as an afterthought. You are not fighting rulers of other castles but waves of enemies in unknown areas for resources and rewards that go into the building and upgrades of new structures. Castles lacks identity and cohesiveness and thus, offers players very few reasons to login the next day. While it offers a lot of avenues for upgrades in terms of equipment and structures, not all of them are necessary or well thought out. For example, there is no reason for me to upgrade an iron spoon to level 3,4, and 5 – it is for all matters and purposes a spoon, after all. This is an intricate level of game mechanics that demands unnecessary grinding from players.

— Aditya Deshbandhu



WHAT STANDS OUT

- The fallout shelter-style approach to a kingdom is a unique experience. The races from the world of Elder Scrolls are well integrated here.
- The decision-making ruler system is a nice touch and connects to the franchise's iconic RPG style.

FAILS TO IMPRESS

- The game lacks identity as it tries to do too much from resource gathering and upgrade building to automated combat.
- The decision-making ruler system is a nice touch and connects to the franchise's iconic RPG style. The citizen gathering, and allocation to individual productive roles mechanic is a bit overly detailed – as gathering new citizens is often a journey that spans a lot of actual days.

SNEAK PEEK

- **TITLE:** The Elder Scrolls: Castles
- **DEVELOPER:** Bethesda Softworks
- **GAME TYPE:** Decision making, resource gathering with combat
- **PLATFORMS:** Androidand iOS
- **PRICE:** Free to Play with in game purchases

VERDICT (ALL SCORES OUT OF 10)

- Innovative Gameplay: **6**
- Game Handling & Quality: **6**
- Value for Time: **7**
- Potential Progression without in-game purchases: **8**
- Overall: **6.75**

'Signathon Run' event a big draw

Students perform during the Signathon-24 event on Sunday.

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Ashray Akruti, a registered NGO working to improve the lives of people with disabilities and marginalised sections of society, organised its annual 'Signathon' run coinciding with the International Day of Sign Languages on Sunday.

More than 1,500 people including children from deaf and dumb schools, participated in the 'Signathon 2024' at Gachibowli Stadium. Nitin Sharma, senior Director of Technology and Patent Counsel at Qualcomm, was the chief guest at the event which also had participation of Harish Kumar Sirapu, Hyderabad CCC chairperson, State Street, JSR Prasad, Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital, Archana Suresh, Telangana-Social Impact group, Dept of Industries, Mani Shyam Sundar, senior Director Partner Management & Site Director, and Sunitha Tangella, Manager, Client Analytics, Unisys.

The event featured a captivating 2 km sign march, interactive sessions on Indian Sign Language (ISL), a talent showcase with inspiring performances by students, and a flash mob followed by the National Anthem in ISL. "Signathon 2024 is our way of celebrating the rich diversity of sign languages and their power to connect and empower the hearing-impaired community," said DPK Babu, founder-director of Ashray Akruti.

Seminar for civil services aspirants

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Reflections IAS Academy, in association with 'Telangana Today' and 'Namasthe Telangana' is organizing a series of seminars across Telangana to guide aspiring civil service candidates.

These seminars aim to provide invaluable insights to fresh graduates on how to pursue a career in civil services.

The next seminar will be held at St Peter's Engineering College, Maisammaguda, Medchal, on September 23. The chief guest for the seminar is Dr G Vivekananda, an achiever of the 2014 UPSC examination, currently serving as Assistant Director in the Ministry of Defence. His experience and journey will inspire many students looking to explore the civil services as a prestigious and rewarding career path.

The event will also feature T V Reddy, secretary of the college, who will motivate students to take advantage of the opportunities available in this field. Dr K Sree Latha, Principal will also attend, adding her valuable support to this initiative.

Continuation
from page 1

Uncertainty continues over Rythu Bharosa

The fate of agricultural labourers for whom the Congress promised Rs 12,000 per annum also remains uncertain, with no official statement in this regard. However, sources indicate that the Congress government already sought the Centre to link the MGNREGS with agriculture, and plans to make it as part of the Rythu Bharosa assurance, if approved. Agriculture officials are yet to receive official guidelines, with clarity expected by the month-end. Farmers are anxiously awaiting news, hoping the government will fulfil its promises and provide much-needed relief ahead of the crucial Yasangi season.

'Selfie for loan waiver' launched in Dubbak

While Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy claimed that he had completed the loan waiver, Kamalakar Reddy demanded an explanation from the government to the farmers who did not get the benefit until now. Reddy said they would tour all the villages in the district to record the voices of the farmers, which they would share on social media by tagging the Chief Minister.

Will quit politics if proved wrong, KTR on Amrut scam

Rama Rao also highlighted the progress made by Singareni Collieries under the BRS rule, noting significant increases in profits. He contrasted this with the previous governments, stating that the Congress and TDP governments in the past could share the profits made by the company were minimal.

Under the BRS government, profits crossed the thousand-crore mark, with Rs 2,780 crore given to workers over nine and a half years. In the fiscal year 2022-23, workers received a 32 per cent share of Singareni's profits, averaging Rs 60,000 per worker. He accused the Congress government of misleading the public by claiming to be sharing 33 per cent with the coal workers, while actually providing only 16 per cent. He urged the Congress to be honest about their contributions. He sounded a caution to the workforce of the SCCL that unless they take a strong stand to safeguard their interests, they would be playing into the hands of the forces which were out to privatise the company. He wanted to be wary of the machinations of the BJP, which was supporting the privatisation moves and the Congress government in the State that was proved to be supportive of such privatisation plans. He said the coal workers who voted for the Congress in the coal belt should question the MLAs on the failure of the government to fulfil the promise of sharing 33 per cent of the profit with them.

The CPI and its affiliated AITUC, which was the recognised trade union of the company should also respond on the issue. Rama Rao called on the government to respond immediately if they believed his statements were incorrect, emphasising the need for workers to recognise and fight against any potential privatisation efforts.

HYDRAA's 'selective' act draws ire

However, they either got time to approach the court, or action is being delayed against them. Sharing images of demolitions taken up by HYDRAA in different areas, social media users questioned the double standards of HYDRAA. An X handle, Telangana Transparency, said: "HYDRAA demolitions without notices in Kukatpally. Victims kept weeping and pleaded with the officials to let them collect their belongings. While Revanth's family was issued notices and enough sufficient time, common people were deprived of such time and their structures were razed down..."

BRS spokesperson Putta Vishnuvardhan Reddy on X said: "The tears of these poor and helpless people are not good for the State. Revanth Reddy's government should pause and introspect its haphazard and selective demolition spree. Else the Congress government will have to pay a heavy price in people's court..."

Guinness honour for Chiru

"Mega star Chiranjeevi has performed 24,000 dance moves in 537 songs in his 156 films in a span of 45 years," sources close to the actor said. "22 September also happens to be the day when the mega star made his debut in the year 1978," they said.

Superstar Aamir Khan, who shared the dais with Chiranjeevi, said he is a huge fan of Chiranjeevi garu. "I see him as my elder brother. I was so happy that Chiranjeevi garu is being given this honour and I was really thrilled to know that. If you notice him in any song of his, 'his own heart' is in it, and he is enjoying himself," Khan said.

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in a post on 'X' congratulated Chiranjeevi and said, "It is a matter of pride for Telugu people that popular movie actor Konidela Chiranjeevi got a place in the Guinness Book of World Records." Chiranjeevi is one of the top stars of the South cinema, having worked in over 150 feature films in Telugu as well as Hindi, Tamil and Kannada. Some of his popular films include 'Rudra Veena', 'Indra', 'Tagore', 'Swayam Krushi', 'Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy', 'Stalin' and 'Gang Leader'.

He was bestowed with the Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian honour awarded for exceptional and distinguished service, along with Indian cinema icon Vyjayanthimala, in May this year. He was previously honoured with Padma Bhushan in 2006. PTI

In Brief

HYDERABAD
Fruit vendor murdered

A fruit vendor was murdered allegedly by his brother-in-law at Golconda on Sunday evening. The victim Kaleem, a resident of Tappachabutra went to Golconda Jamali Kunta area for some work when an argument took place between Kaleem and his brother in law and he was stabbed to death, ACP Golconda Syed Fayaz said. The police reached the spot and shifted the body for post-mortem.

HYDERABAD
NIA conducts probe

A team of National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday conducted an investigation at an apartment building in Sankeshwar Bazaar in Saidabad. According to sources, the officials visited the building as part of the investigation into the activities of Rizwan Abdul Ali, who was arrested by the Delhi Police and later handed over the investigation agency in August. Ali was wanted by the NIA in connection with ISIS Pune module case and a reward of Rs 3 lakh was declared on him.

HYDERABAD
Talk on rhinos at Nehru Zoo

A talk on rhinoceros was held at the Nehru Zoological Park to mark World Rhinoceros Day on Sunday. Nehru Zoo is among the top zoos in the country to breed the Greater one-horned Rhinoceros and houses five rhinos including two female rhinos. Dr Sunil S Hiremath, Director (FAC), Zoo Parks and Curator, NZP, along with Indian Oil Corporation, Hyderabad officials participated in the celebrations. In a noble gesture towards conservation of wildlife, A Krishna Murthy, Indian Army (Retd), come forward to adopt Indian Gaur for a period of one year. He visited the zoo along with his daughter and grandson and presented a cheque of Rs 50,000 to the curator.

'Arogya Mahila' scheme abandoned

None of the tertiary care hospitals hold weekly women clinics

M SAI GOPAL
HYDERABAD

The comprehensive women's health programme 'Arogya Mahila' scheme aimed at addressing the medical needs of women, has been abandoned in all government health care facilities in Telangana State.

While the State government has scrapped the initiative, in lieu, it is yet to frame or launch a scheme that is aimed at addressing and improving the health-seeking behaviour of women, providing a secure and private environment for women to approach medical facilities and sensitize government medical staff to the needs of women, which was the role of Arogya Mahila.

All the tertiary care hospitals including OGH, Gandhi Hospital, Urban Primary Health Centres (Basthi Dawakhanas) and district hospitals in Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana State are not holding the weekly once-exclusive clinics for women.

Exclusive once-in-a-week OPs ensured women had no inhibitions and would attend in large numbers to undergo physical tests for the detection of cancers at an early stage. Vital cancer diagnostic services to identify cervical and breast cancer were available on the appointed day at the government healthcare facility.

In fact, within a month or two of the Arogya Mahila initiative, that was launched in March 2023 (on the occasion of Women's Day), the project became a major public health care scheme for early detection of cancers among women. In addition to diagnosing chronic ailments like diabetes, hypertension, thyroid etc, the Arogya Mahila scheme started playing a vital role in conducting basic early diagnostic tests to identify suspected cases of breast cancer, cervical cancers and oral cancers among women.

Exclusive outpatient clinics were being operated under Arogya Mahila initiative to conduct eight different kinds of tests that were focused on checking their overall health and later refer them to higher health care facilities. The OP clinic conducted Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) for cervical cancer suspected oral or breast cancer cases and then referred to a higher care facilities (to which they were attached) to undergo mammogram, ultrasound, Colposcopy, Cryotherapy, pap smear/ biopsy/ FNAC (Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology) to detect tumours.

Addressing Key Needs

SCALE OF AROGYA MAHILA CLINICS
(Between Mar 2023 and Sept 2023)

- Number of Arogya Mahila clinics: **272**
- Number of woman screened: **2,11,745**
- Total patient investigations: **51,750**
- Cervical cancer exams (VIA): **37,887**
- Oral Cancer exams: **1,65,748**
- Breast cancer exams: **1,63,780**
- Screening for micronutrient deficiencies: **75,150**
- UTI: **15,051**
- Number of thyroid profiles: **27,324**
- Women who were referred to higher facility for cancers: **11,857**

FACILITIES AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY FOR WOMEN
Diagnostics, screening of oral, breast and cervical cancers, micronutrient deficiencies, poly cystic ovarian syndrome, family planning, menstrual issues and infertility, menopause management, Urinary Tract Infections (UTI), pelvic inflammatory diseases, sexually transmitted infections, weight management and counselling.

TESTS AT HIGHER FACILITIES
Mammogram, ultrasound, Colposcopy, Cryotherapy, pap smear, biopsy and FNAC

IMD warns of intense rain spell over next three days

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Telangana is gearing up for an intense spell of heavy rainfall over the next three days, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Hyderabad has issued a yellow alert for the State. Several districts including Hyderabad are expected to experience heavy downpours along with thunderstorms, lightning, and squalls from September 23 to 25.

For Hyderabad, the IMD forecasts cloudy skies until Wednesday, predicting light to moderate rains or thundershowers. A yellow alert has also been issued for the city on Tuesday, urging residents to stay cautious as weather conditions are expected to intensify.

On Sunday, Hyderabad and several other districts were hit by heavy rain, with Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district recording the highest rainfall at 103.3 mm. Golconda in Hyderabad also registered a significant downpour, with 91.3 mm — the highest recorded in the city for the day.

The ongoing southwest monsoon has already brought significant rainfall to Telangana, with the State recording an average of 919 mm so far, a 31 per cent increase over the normal 703.6 mm. Hyderabad has also witnessed an above-average monsoon season, recording 780.4 mm of rainfall, a 36 per cent deviation from its normal 575.5 mm.

Nampally, in particular, saw a substantial increase, receiving 920.6 mm of rain compared to its usual 570.8 mm, reflecting a 61 per cent surge, the IMD noted.

Peddlers nabbed with 27 grams MDMA

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Excise and Prohibition Department Task Force arrested two persons who were allegedly in possession of MDMA drug and seized 27 grams of the contraband from them on Sunday.

The arrested persons Sushil Kumar and Palukuri Deepak were sourcing the drug from one Praveen Singh from Bengaluru, and selling it here in the city. "Sushil purchased the drug from Praveen for Rs 3,000 a gram and sold it for Rs 6,000 to his customers in the city," N Anji Reddy, Superintendent of Prohibition and Excise Department, said. Praveen and two others Ramesh and Charan, who helped Sushil were absconding.

The officials identified three persons -- Hithesh, Shaik Mohammed and Bobby, who were regularly purchasing the contraband from Sushil. Legal action would be initiated against them, the official said.

Four held with ganja

Four persons including three members of a family were nabbed by the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (HNEW) along with the Afzalgunj police for ganja peddling. The police seized five kilograms of ganja, an auto rickshaw, cash Rs 3,400, and four mobile phones from them. The arrested were Byagari Ananthaiah (53), his wife B Niraja (45), son B Ravikanth, and S Ganganna (40), the ganja supplier.

According to the police, Ravikanth, who works with a bike taxi company procured the ganja from Ganganna at Adilabad. With the help of his parents, he packed it in small packets and delivered it to the customers at Abids, Langer Houz, Rajendranagar, and Sun City, according to Y V S Sudheendra, DCP, Commissioner's Task Force & H-NEW.

Woman raped on private bus to Vijayawada

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A woman was allegedly raped in a private bus three days ago. The incident came to light when she approached the police and a case was registered against the suspect.

According to the police, the victim boarded the bus at Kukatpally to travel to Vijayawada on Thursday. One of the bus drivers offered her a seat. When the bus reached Choutuppal on the city outskirts, the man sitting near her sexually assaulted the woman in the bus and threatened her of dire consequences if she revealed it to anyone.

The woman reached Vijayawada and did not inform anyone. Later, when she developed some health issues, her family enquired about it and she revealed about the sexual assault. The victim and her family headed to Hyderabad and filed a complaint with the Choutuppal police who registered a 'Zero FIR'.

Burglars flee with Rs 2 cr cash, gold

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In one of the biggest burglaries reported in recent times in the city, unidentified persons made away with Rs 2 crore in cash and around 30 tolas of gold ornaments from a house at Pocharam, in the city suburbs on Sunday.

B Nagabhushan (75) who stayed with his wife at the house, went out on some work in the early hours of Sunday. His wife, who woke up later in the morning, noticed the house was ransacked and the cash and the gold ornaments missing from the cupboards. She alerted Nagabhushan, who returned home and informed the police about it.

A police team rushed to the spot and pressed a sniffer dog and clues team into service to assist in the investigation.

The couple told the police that recently they had sold land in the city suburbs and kept the cash in their house.

"Some persons who were aware of the fact that huge money was kept in the house might have planned the heist. A few suspects were taken into custody and an investigation was going on," ACP Malkajgiri S Chakrapani said. The police formed special teams to identify the suspects and nab them. The Rachakonda Special Operations Teams were working alongside the local police on the case.

Honour for BITS Pilani Hyd professor

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Pradyumn Kumar Sahoo, Professor and Head, Department of Mathematics at BITS Pilani Hyderabad campus, figured in the global top 2 per cent of highly cited researchers in the updated study of Stanford University.

The acknowledgement is based on the 'Updated Science-Wide Author Databases of Standardized Citation Indicators' by John PA Ioannidis of Stanford University, which evaluated scientists globally using a comprehensive set of metrics. Prof Sahoo expressed his gratitude to his PhD students and learned collaborators for their contributions.

Eye For Detail

Artists work on the idol of Goddess Durga ahead of Dasara festivities, at Dhoolpet on Sunday. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

HYDRAA razes sheds around Nalla Cheruvu

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Heart-wrenching scenes unfolded during the demolition drive taken up by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) in the city on Sunday.

At Kukatpally, the HYDRAA teams claimed that 16 commercial sheds and compound walls, which were constructed after encroaching upon the Nalla Cheruvu, were demolished.

Emotional scenes were witnessed at Kukatpally after the HYDRAA teams started razing down the sheds. In several videos making rounds on social media platforms, the families, some falling at the feet of officials, were seen pleading with the officials to allow them to earn their livelihood decently.

Several kitchens were running from the sheds, and many people were employed there. "We prepare meals and supply to mess and functions. At least if we were informed by authorities in advance, some alternative arrangements could have been made. All of a sudden, we were thrown out," complained a woman.

Illegal constructions being demolished near Nalla Cheruvu in Kukatpally on Sunday. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

The families say they were staying for years at the place and earned their livelihood. "If the only source of income is snatched away, everything is gone. Why did the officials keep mum when the structures were coming up? Everyone knows who are all involved at the government level, and even the HYDRAA officials are aware of it, but no action will be taken against them," lamented a man who wept in front of a demolished structure.

Another man, who was staying at one of the sheds, said his wife was seven months pregnant, and the authorities have thrown them out. "At least we should have been informed about the demolition in advance. We would ourselves have vacated the place and gone to a safer place," he said.

On the other hand, HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath said some individuals had built large sheds alongside the boundary of the lake for extensive commercial activities, such as catering businesses, which include kitchens for catering orders. "Workers associated with these activities reside on the premises, and those structures have been removed," he said.

At Ameenpur mandal of Sangareddy district, the authorities demolished 28 buildings constructed on government land for commercial purposes.

Three RCC structures were used for commercial operations at Kistareddypet, while at Patelguda, a total of 25 RCC buildings were constructed by the builder for the purpose of commercial operations after encroaching upon the government land.

Hence, these were demolished, said Ranganath. A total of eight acres of land was reclaimed following the operation.

Onus on people to keep rivers clean: FBH

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Forum for a Better Hyderabad (FBH), in collaboration with World Rivers Day, Canada, Civil Society Groups, Government City College and Deccan Heritage Academy, among other educational institutions, organised a walk along the banks of Shamirpet lake here on Sunday commemorating the 'World Rivers Day'.

Presiding over the programme, FBH chairman and INTACH national governing council member Prof Veda Kumar Manikonda emphasised that it was people's responsibility to keep the rivers clean.

He said it does not just rest on the government alone but the civil society, organisations and youth to take responsibility to protect rivers and water bodies against pollution.

FBH organised a walk along the banks of Shamirpet lake.

Explaining about the significance of Shamirpet lake, Prof Veda Kumar said the lake was the best sunset point that the sixth Nizam Mehboob Ali Pasha selected as the best point around Hyderabad and made it popular among his guests from all over the world during their visit to Hyderabad, according to a release.

Telangana Tribal Museum director and historian Dr D Satyanarayana, Shameerpet Samrakshana Committee convenor Ravindra Reddy, water harvesting expert Subhash Reddy, FBH member Narahari, environmentalists, students, teachers and school management representatives also participated.

In Brief

BHUPALPALLY

4 injured in bee attack

Four persons, including a lineman, were grievously injured after being stung by a swarm of bees in Bambulagadda of Bhupalpally town on Sunday. According to reports, lineman T Anil, who was repairing an electric pole, was attacked by the bees. Three others, who were standing near the pole, were also attacked. Anil was rushed to the government hospital. The others are being treated at a private hospital.

KARIMNAGAR

6 villages to be merged

More villages are likely to be merged in the Municipal Corporation of Karimnagar. Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has written to the Collector, asking to send proposals for the merger of six villages and a municipality in the 10-km radius of the corporation.

Concerns grow over Navy radar station in forest land

People protest the construction of the Navy's radar station in the Damagundem forests of Vikarabad district, at Dharna Chowk on Sunday.

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Cutting across different sections, people appealed to the government to save the Damagundem forests in Vikarabad district and demanded the relocation of the Navy's radar station from the forest.

Ramalingeswara Swamy temple head priest Satyananda Swamy, environmentalist D Satyanarayana, former MLC Prof Nageshwar, director and producer T Bharadwaj and others participated in a protest at Dharna Chowk here on Sunday.

They expressed concern that the construction of a radar station, township, schools and parks in the forests would cast an adverse impact on the local environment. They demanded that the Central and State governments hold public discussions on the issue.

If the ecological balance was not ensured, it would lead to natural calamities like what had happened in Wayanad and Uttarakhand. The State government should release the environment impact assessment report of the radar station project in public domain, Prof Nageshwar demanded, adding that the radar station should be set up only after planting 12 lakh trees and once they grow into a forest. The CPM State unit, too, wanted the State government to reconsider its decision. Setting up of the radar station in the forest would affect the local biodiversity.

It would also impact water bodies and Musi river, which originates from Vikarabad, said CPM State secretary T Veerabhadram.

Meanwhile, the Forest Department said there was no truth in the news that 12 lakh trees would be cut for setting up the radar station. Of the entire forest land allocated, only 48 per cent would be earmarked for the construction of the radar. All measures would be taken to ensure no damage in the remaining 52 per cent of forest land, PCCF RM Dobriyal said. "In the 48 per cent of the forest land, only a few trees will be cleared to build the radar station. The Forest Advisory Authority has clarified that only 1,93,562 trees would be removed," he said.

Congress double standards exposed

BRS turncoats Arekapudi, Kadiam, Danam attend CLP meet

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The participation of turncoat MLAs, who defected from the BRS to Congress, in the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting here on Sunday exposed the double standards of the ruling party.

Apart from Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi, Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender, Rajendranagar MLA Prakash Goud and Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiam Srihari attended the meeting at a private hotel. Ever since the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) questioned the appointment of the Serilingampally MLA as the Public Accounts Committee Chairman, the Congress has been trying to defend it saying that he was still with the BRS and in the Opposition.

Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu has defended the appointment of Gandhi saying it was done as per Assembly rules. "Arekapudi Gandhi declared that he is a BRS MLA. If the PAC Chairman has any differences with BRS, how are we related?" Sridhar Babu had asked at a press conference here recently. However, when the Congress Legislative Party meeting was held, the shallowness behind these claims, made obviously to avoid disqualification in the background of the High Court's directives on turncoat MLAs, was exposed. Videos of the turncoat MLAs attending the Congress Legislative Party meeting were shared extensively on social media. Sharing videos of Gandhi and Prakash Goud entering the hotel, Congress for Telangana, an X user, said: "CLP meeting will commence under the chairmanship of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy…" The Legislative Affairs Minister continued to defend the presence of the Serilingampally MLA at the CLP meeting here.

"Arekapudi Gandhi is the local MLA and the meeting is being conducted under his constituency limits. Since Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is here, the local MLA himself said he met him as a courtesy," Sridhar Babu said. It is learnt that the leaders discussed the strategies to be adopted for the ensuing local bodies' elections, BC caste census and filling of nominated posts during the meeting.

Breach of political ethics: Harish

HYDERABAD: Former Minister and senior BRS leader T Harish Rao questioned Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu for a logical explanation over "opposition" MLA Arekapudi Gandhi attending the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting here on Sunday.

His remarks came in response to the Minister's justification of appointing defected MLA Arekapudi Gandhi as Public Accounts Committee Chairman, stating that the latter is a BRS MLA and did not join the ruling Congress.

Sharing videos of Gandhi attending the CLP meeting on Sunday evening on X, Harish asked Sridhar Babu to stop making misleading statements regarding defections of BRS MLAs to the Congress. He expressed disbelief at Sridhar Babu's justification, calling it an utter disrespect to the constitution.

Mocking previous Congress attempts to justify defections, the senior BRS MLA recalled that they once misled the people by calling Congress scarves offered to defected MLAs as 'religious scarves'. Now, he said they might claim attending a CLP meeting is just courtesy.

"The attendance of BRS MLAs Kadiam Srihari and Arekapudi Gandhi at the CLP meeting was not a mere 'courtesy call', but a serious breach of political ethics. How can an MLA of one party attend another party's LP meeting? This is not a 'courtesy' but a violation of constitutional conduct," he added.

Harish pointed out that while MLAs from opposition parties might meet the Chief Minister during government programmes in their respective constituencies, they would never attend the ruling party's LP meetings as an opposition MLA. He suggested the Congress to respect constitutional provisions between parties.

CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MADDURI VISWANADH, S/o. MADDURI SATHYANARAYANA, R/o. 8-50, Flat No. F-3, Stya Sai Nivas, Road No. 1/3, Goutham Nagar, Dilsukhnagar, Gaddiannaram, PO; P&T Colony, DIST: K.V. Rangareddy, Telangana-500060. Changed my name as **VISWANATH MADDURI.** [TT-11403]

I, YOUSUF UDDIN SIDDIQUI S/o. Sayeed Uddin Siddiqui, R/o. 9-4-134/61, Aruna Cly, Tolichowki, Hyd TS. changed my name as **MOHAMMED YOUSUF UDDIN SIDDIQUI** for All Purposes [TT-8136]

I, YASMEEN BEGUM W/o. Shaik Sajid Ali, R/o. 10-6-317/1, First Lancer, Ahmed Nagar Ward, Syed Nagar, Hyd, TS changed my name as **NAZEEMA BEGUM.** for All Purposes [TT-8136]

I, MAHA KHALEEL ULLAH D/o. KHALEEL ULLA BAIG S/o. ATAULLAH BAIG R/o.HNo. 16-9-688/2, ELITES' ABODE APTS, FNo. 601, Sixth Flr Old Malakpet Hyd-500036, TS Changed My Name As **MAHA KHALIL ULLAH.** for All Purposes [TT-8136]

I, YOUSUF UDDIN SIDDIQUI S/o. Sayeed Uddin Siddiqui, R/o. 9-4-134/61, Aruna Cly, Tolichowki, Hyd TS. changed my name as **MOHAMMED YOUSUF UDDIN SIDDIQUI** for All Purposes [TT-8136]

I, YASMEEN BEGUM W/o. Shaik Sajid Ali, R/o. 10-6-317/1, First Lancer, Ahmed Nagar Ward, Syed Nagar, Hyd, TS changed my name as **NAZEEMA BEGUM.** for All Purposes [TT-8136]

I, MAHA KHALEEL ULLAH D/o. KHALEEL ULLA BAIG S/o. ATAULLAH BAIG R/o.HNo. 16-9-688/2, ELITES' ABODE APTS, FNo. 601, Sixth Flr Old Malakpet Hyd-500036, TS Changed My Name As **MAHA KHALIL ULLAH.** for All Purposes [TT-8136]

I, Yukti D/o. BHAVESH Shah r/o 16-7-280 villa-198 Ramky Enclave near Railway Station Warangal Telegana change my name to **Yukti Shah** as per my ssc memo for all purposes [TT-8137]

I, BHAVESH VINOD Chander Shah r/o 16-7-280 villa-198 Ramky Enclave near Railway station WARANGAL TELEGANA CHANGE MY NAME TO **BHAVESH SHAH** FOR ALL PURPOSES [TT-8137]

I, Preeti Bhavesh W/o Bhavesh Shah R/o 16-7-280 villa-198 Railway station Warangal Telangana changed my name to **Preeti Bhavesh Shah** for all purposes [TT-8137]

I, P.HYMAVATHI is legally dependent Mother of Service No. 10329880A, Rank: L/NK, Name: PAVULURI YASHWANTH, Unit: 125 Inf Bn (TA) THE GUARDS C/O. 56 APO, Residing at H.No. 6-2-419, Vill: NIZAMABAD, PO: NIZAMABAD, Teh: NIZAMABAD, Dist: NIZAMABAD, State: TELANGANA, Pin: 503002, I have changed my name from P HYMAVATHI to **PAVULURI HYMAVATHI,** My Date of Birth 02-06-1967, Affidavit Singed By advocate and Notary B yadagiri MMCP BA LLB [TT-TNK]

I, P. RAVI KUMAR is legally dependent Father of Service No. 10329880A, Rank: L/NK, Name: PAVULURI YASHWANTH, Unit: 125 Inf Bn (TA) THE GUARDS C/O. 56 APO, Residing at H.No. 6-2-419, Vill: NIZAMABAD, PO: NIZAMABAD, Teh: NIZAMABAD, Dist: NIZAMABAD, State: TELANGANA, Pin: 503002, I have changed my name from PRAVI KUMAR to **PAVULURI RAVI KUMAR,** My Date of Birth is 23-04-1956, Affidavit Singed By advocate and Notary B yadagiri MMCP BA LLB [TT-TNK]

I, Service No. JC-707221F, Rank: NB/SUB/NA, Name: **CHAKRAVARTHY B** S/o. HANMANTHU B, Unit: Military Hospital, Secunderabad, Residing at H.No. 3-124/31, Sainik Colony, NISA Hakimpet, Vill: SINGAIPALLY, PO: HAKIMPET, Teh: SHAMIRPET, Dist: MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, State: TELANGANA, Pin:500078, I have changed my Daughter Name from B SANJANA to **SANJANA BASARA** That my daughter date of birth is 28-04-2011, Affidavit Singed By advocate and Notary B yadagiri MMCP BA LLB [TT-TNK]

I, Service No. JC-707221F, Rank: NB/SUB/NA, Name: **CHAKRAVARTHY B** S/o. HANMANTHU B, Unit: Military Hospital, Secunderabad, Residing at H.No. 3-124/31, Sainik Colony, NISA Hakimpet, Vill: SINGAIPALLY, PO: HAKIMPET, Teh: SHAMIRPET, Dist: MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, State: TELANGANA, Pin:500078, I have changed my Son Name from B YUVARAJ to **YUVARAJ BASARA** That my Son date of birth is 01-08-2009, Affidavit Singed By advocate and Notary B yadagiri MMCP BA LLB [TT-TNK]

I, Praffula Shah W/o. VINOD CHANDRA R/o. 16-7-280 villa-198 Ramky Enclave near Railway station Warangal Telegana changed my name to Prafulla **VINOD CHANDRA Shah** for all purposes [TT-8137]

I, VINOD CHANDRA Shah S/o Jechand Shah R/o 16-7-280 villa-198 Ramky Enclave near Railway station Warangal Telegana to **Vinod CHANDRA .J. Shah** for all purposes [TT-8137]

I, BHAVESH KUMAR S/o. VINOD CHANDER SHAH R/o. 16-7-280 VILLA-198 RAMKY ENCLAVE NEAR RAILWAY STATION WARANGAL TELEGANA CHANGED MY NAME TO **BHAVESH SHAH** FOR ALL PURPOSES [TT-8137]

I, PREETI SHAH W/o. BHAVESH SHAH R/o. 16-7-280 VILLA-198 RAMKY ENCLAVE NEAR RAILWAY STATION WARANGAL TELEGANA CHANGED MY NAME TO **PREETI BHAVESH SHAH** FOR ALL PURPOSES [TT-8137]

I, Praffula VINOD SHAH W/o. VINOD CHANDRA SHAH R/O 16-7-280 VILLA-198 RAMKY ENCLAVE NEAR RAILWAY STATION WARANGAL TELEGANA CHANGED MY NAME TO **PRAFULLA VINOD CHANDRA SHAH** FOR ALL PURPOSES [TT-8137]

I, BHAVESH VINOD Chander Shah R/o. 16-7-280 villa-198 Ramky Enclave near Railway station WARANGAL TELEGANA CHANGE MY NAME TO **BHAVESH SHAH** FOR ALL PURPOSES [TT-8137]

LOST

I, VEMULA LAKSHMI SARANYA, W/o. P. Yuga Santosh, R/o. MANIKONDA, HYD-89. LOST MY PASSPORT No. P3930811, ALONG by traveling, Nr. LANCO HILLS. if any found pls **call. 7815834148.** [TT-8256]

PUBLIC NOTICE (DOCUMENT MISSING)

Notice is hereby given under the instruction of my client **Mr.PARASMAL MALI S/o BHUDRARAMJI MALI,** R/o Ashok Bazar, Hyderabad (Cell: 9963348588), had lost the original Release Deed Document No.7554 of 2016 of Book-I of SRO Charminar, Hyderabad while travelling from Siddiamber Bazar to Begum Bazar, Hyderabad, in respect of the property Shop No.3 on Ground Floor, bearing Municipal No.15-6-358/3, situated at Pathanwadi, Begum Bazar, Hyderabad admeasuring 115.56 Sq.ft., and the same is not traceable. If anybody found the above said document relating to the said property are requested to handover the same to the below address: **T.ALI MIRZA** M.A., LL.B., Advocate, H.No. 22-8-362, Darulshifa, Hyderabad, Telangana State. **Cell: 9849097653**

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Gollapalle bans alcohol

STATE BUREAU
Warangal

Gollapalle, an agency village bordering Nallabelli mandal of Warangal district, has joined the list of villages banning the sale and consumption of alcohol in the State. Model village panchayats Gangadevipally, Mariyapuram and several others have already imposed total prohibition and now Gollapalle has joined them. The decision, which comes at a time when the government is trying to increase revenue through liquor sale, was taken at a meeting held at the village last week.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to all the General Public that my client KOVURU RAVINDRA, S/o Kovuru Yathirajulu had lost Original Link Registered Sale Deed, Dated 06.05.1996 bearing Document No. 1978/1996 and Registered Rectification Deed, Dated 29.12.1997 bearing No. 6234/1997 in respect of Plot Nos.37 & 38, admeasuring 640 sq.yds in Sy. Nos. 182, 186/P and 187, situated at Abdullapurmet Village and Grampanchayath, Abdullapurmet Revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy District while travelling from Choutuppal to Abdullapurmet in the Auto.

If any person or persons finds the said Original Link Registered Sale Deed, Dated 06.05.1996 bearing Document No. 1978/1996 and Registered Rectification Deed, Dated 29.12.1997 bearing No. 6234/1997 the same may be handed over to the undersigned as a law abiding citizen. Further, the above said original document shall not be abused or misused or otherwise utilized by unauthorized person. If any unauthorized person makes misuse of it, the same shall not bind my client.

Hence this Public Notice.

Sd/- **GOPI SHANKAR YADAV,**
Advocate,
14-13, Adbullapurmet, Ranga Reddy District - 501505.
Phone: 7330892709

CAUTION NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that concerning my client namely Chintoju Ranjith Chary, S/o Late Sudarshan Chary, Aged about 39 years, Occ: Private Job, Sri Sai Balaji Township, H.No.4-4/513/A/1, Solipur @ Farooqnagar (M) Ranga Reddy (District), Pin-code - 509216. T.G. (State).,

It is hereby cautioned the general public that my client was the absolute owner and peaceful possessor of the subject property Open Land admeasuring to an extent of Ac.0.13 Gts., or equivalent to 1573 Sq. yds., or equivalent to 1315.18 Sq.Mtrs., in Sy.No. 708, situated at Chattanpally Village, Shadnagar Municipality, Farooqnagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, which my client have acquired from his vendors vide Registered Sale Deed Document No.15547 of 2022, dated 17-11-2022, and got registered the same through Sub-Registrar Office, Farooqnagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District my client filed suit and obtained Injunction Order in I.A.No.1592 of 2022 in O.S. No. 585 of 2022 dated 05-12-2022 before the Court of the learned Principal Junior Civil Judge, Shadnagar.

My client basing on the above subject property has filed Writ Petition W.P.No.23207 of 2024, before Hon'ble High Court on 22-08-2024; wherein the Hon'ble High Court after having further arguments on 20-09-2024, has directed my client to cause publication of the notice against **Respondent No.6 (i.e., MACHARLA RANI @ URADALA RANI, W/o URADALA SREENAIAH (Home Guard- Police Dept), aged about 37 years, Occ: Housewife, R/o H.No. 4-49/A/1, Chattanpally Village, Revenue Ward No.11, Zone- 3, Faroornagar, Shadnagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, T.S. - 509216, by mentioning the date of hearing of the present Writ Petition as 24-10-2024) so as to appear in person or through Counsel in above W.P.No. 23207 of 2024.**

Therefore, the general public is hereby cautioned that W.P.NO.23207 of 2024 is listed on 24-10-2024 for filing publication.

Hence this Caution Notice.

Sd/- **BOLLU NAGARAJU**
Advocate
R/o H.No.8-533 (Old No.9-88/1), Jyothi Colony, Jawahar Nagar, Kapra Mandal, Medchal- Malkajgiri District - 500 087.
Cell: 9393366444

Buffalo's death uncovers bomb racket

STATE BUREAU
Rajanna-Sircilla

The death of a buffalo helped the police unearth a country bomb manufacturing racket.

Two days ago, a buffalo bit into a bomb it found on the ground in Dharmaram of Konaraopet mandal. With the bomb exploding in its mouth, the animal died. Based on a complaint lodged by its owner Mudike MalleshAm, Konaraopet police led by ASI Raghupathi Reddy began an investigation.

The police began watching the movements of a seasoned criminal Pittala Rajalingam, and took him into custody on Sunday after confirming that he was engaged in the manufacture of bombs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are here by Informed that my client Sri.GORLA MOHANRAO, S/o. Sri. Rama RAO, R/o Flat No.402, Chaitanya Classic 3, Srinivas Nagar Colony, Nizampet, kukatpally, HYD-TS has entered into an agreement of Sale on dt.20/09/2024 with SRI. KOLANU ABHINAND REDDY S/O KOLANU CHANDRA MOHAN REDDY, R/o. Plot No. HIG-281, Phase-VI, KPHB colony, Kukatpally, Hyderabad-72 for purchase of Plot-No.7 admeasuring 337 Sq. yards or 281.73 Sq.mtrs in Sy.No.181 & 183 Part Situated at Prasanthi Golden Hills, Buchupally (V&M), Nizampet Municipal Corporation, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, T.S. Whereas the Vendor purchased the same Vide Sale Deed No.16589 /2003, Dt: 22/12/2003, Regd.at SRO, Medchal and in pursuance thereof my client has paid a substantial sum by way of Advance and earnest amount.

In this regard any person having any sort of Right, Title interest and or claim over the said property may contact the undersigned within one (1) Week from the date of this Publication together with all supporting documents failing which the sale transaction shall be concluded and no-claims whatsoever shall be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

North: Plot No.6, South: 40'-0" Wide Road, East: Plot No.8, West: 60'-0" Wide Road.

Sd/- **K.MAHIPALREDDY.,** B.COM, LL.B,
(Advocate)
#32, Vertex Lakeview Villas,
Nizampet, Hyderabad. T.S-500090.
Phones: 9440011365, 9490617527.

C.O.L.U.M.N

Citizen's Grievances

Road works near Malkam Cheruvu pending

Incomplete road laying works opposite Malkam Cheruvu is causing a lot of inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

The main road stretch near Malkam Cheruvu needs urgent attention from municipal authorities due to pending road repair works. For the past few months, a major portion of this stretch, which handles heavy traffic from Gachibowli-Khajaguda-Tolichowki and beyond, has been dug up for widening and to lay a new road. For some unknown reason the civil works have been stalled, causing a lot of inconvenience to motorists. With a large section of the road being dug up, there is no space left for pedestrians, forcing them to take risks by walking on the main road. The dug-up stretch has also made it difficult for people to enter or exit the commercial establishments located along this main road.

— Srikanth Awasthi
Khajaguda

Potholes dot Neredmet-Dr AS Rao Nagar road

This is to bring to the attention of municipal authorities about the appalling condition of the Neredmet-Dr A S Rao Nagar main Road (up to Phule statue). Just after crossing the Neredmet crossroads, the busy main road is dotted with potholes and gets inundated with rain water. After crossing the Rachakonda Commissioner's office, the main road is fully damaged and is beyond recognition. This 500-metre stretch has huge potholes and the main road has become slippery too. Stagnant water occupies a large section of the road, leaving a narrow dry strip for the motorists. As a result, the stretch has become a major bottleneck. I request the municipal authorities to take quick action and at least take up temporary repairs at this section.

— M Kameswar Rao
Sainikpuri

Bad roads in BHEL

The road conditions in Tellapur and connecting stretches of MIG Colonies are in bad shape giving tough times to motorists. In some places, the conditions are so bad that driving through them is a nightmarish experience and leaves one shaken up badly. Particularly on the road connecting Tellapur, from adjacent to Sai Baba temple, with both new and old MIG Colonies is a mess. Traffic from both sides struggles through the small duct below the railway track and the road condition is not right. Peeled roads and potholes make it tough for motorists and drivers heading towards the MIG colonies.

— Kajal
New MIG Colony

Write to us

Struggling with garbage piles that remain uncleared for days in the colony or bad road condition or short supply of drinking water? No post box, no shelter at bus stop or woes as a pedestrian on city streets. Want to draw attention towards lack of amenities in your area?

Readers can highlight all such civic issues in the grievance column that appears every Monday by mailing us at 'city@telangana-today.com'

Telangana Today
Monday
September 23, 2024
HYDERABAD

In Brief

SANGAREDDY
GITAM gives Rs 1 crore

GITAM Deemed to be University president and Visakhapatnam MP Sribharat Mathukumilli donated Rs 1 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to support flood relief efforts in Telangana. Sribharat personally handed over the cheque to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee Hills. The amount was pooled from GITAM employees and one-day salary.

HYDERABAD
Agriculture admissions

The Telangana BC Welfare Agriculture Women's Degree College has announced admission for the first year BSc (Hons) Agriculture programme for the 2024-25 academic year. Candidates who qualified in the PJTSAU AGRICET 2024 are eligible to apply till September 23. Admissions are based on the rank secured in the entrance test. For more information or clarification, call 040-23328266.

Long way to go for AMR tunnel

Project's progress hampered by major geological challenges

D CHANDRA BHASKAR RAO
HYDERABAD

The project, initially known as the Srisailam Left Bank Canal Tunnel Project, has been on the cards since 1983. But the works commenced only in 2006.

Moves are afoot to resume work on the Alimineti Madhava Reddy (AMR) SLBC tunnel project very soon. The ambitious project, said to be the world's longest tunnel without intermediate access, was intended to transfer floodwater from the Krishna river at the Srisailam project to the erstwhile Nalgonda district. The tunnel aims at irrigating 4,00,000 acres and providing clean drinking water to 516 villages along its route.

The project, initially known as the Srisailam Left Bank Canal Tunnel Project, has been on the cards since 1983. But the works commenced only in 2006. It was designed to address the water needs of fluoride-affected areas in Nalgonda and parts of Nagarkunool. The tunnel, once completed, will span 43.5 km, making it the longest of its kind in the world.

Two 10-m-diameter double-shield tunnel boring machines (TBMs) engaged in the work were assembled onsite to undertake this massive task. However, the tunnelling progress has been hampered by significant geological challenges. A major portion of the tunnel passes through a shear zone with a strongly deformed crust, causing delays and mechanical issues. Consequently, the project deadline has been extended six times.

Despite these setbacks, the government is keen on resuming work in the coming months, with a target to complete the project by June 2026. However, the availability of TBM components and funding issues remain significant hurdles. The revised project cost is estimated at Rs 4,658 crore, with Rs 2,646 crore already spent. Currently, a 20.5-km stretch of the tunnel is ready from one end, and another 14 km was completed from the other end. The remaining 9.5 km pose the most challenging task due to heavy seepage.

Efforts to address the seepage issues have been ongoing for the last eight months. As of November 2020, both TBMs had excavated at least 70 per cent of their respective stretches. The project has faced extremely hard and abrasive rock conditions, necessitating the use of more durable cutter rings. A Cabinet Minister from the State, accompanied by officials, recently visited Ohio to ascertain the availability of the necessary components for the TBMs.

A senior officer from the Irrigation Department expressed optimism about resuming work soon, despite the challenges. The successful completion of this tunnel will be a significant milestone, providing much-needed water resources to the region.

Discom struggles to fix rain-damaged power infra

Only 40% repairs completed as flood water taking long to recede, say sources

ANIL KUMAR
Hyderabad

A total of 2,417 electricity poles, 21 dynamic thermal rating structures and 18 substations were damaged across the State.

Though over three weeks have passed since floods caused heavy damage to power infrastructure in multiple districts, officials of the Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGNPDCL) are struggling to complete repair works of transformers, electric poles and other equipment damaged during the heavy rain and floods that lashed the State in August-end.

A total of 2,417 electricity poles, 21 dynamic thermal rating structures and 18 substations were damaged following incessant rain and strong winds across the State.

According to an initial assessment, under the TGNPDCL jurisdiction, 11 electric poles were damaged in Warangal district, 20 in Jangaon, 67 in Mahabubabad, 25 in Bhupalpally, five in Khammam, 75 in Kothagudem, five in Karimnagar, eight in Adilabad and two in Mancherial districts. Nine distribution transformers were damaged in Kothagudem and one in Mahabubabad districts. A substation in Gudur section of Mahabubabad was submerged in flood water.

Sources say only 40 per cent of the repairs were completed so far and it was likely to take longer to finish the entire work. Although power has been restored in all areas through alternative arrangements, the repair work was taking time as the flood water receding slowly in many districts.

According to officials, severe damages were caused in Mahabubabad district. Due to the floods, the company suffered a loss of Rs 5 crore in the district alone, sources said. In about 53 villages, electricity equipment suffered severe damages due to heavy rain. Most of the damage was done in the villages located in the Munneru and Akeni river catchment areas.

Around 200 technical staff of the NPDCL, along with another 200 labourers, are engaged in the repair works in the Mahabubabad district, the officials said. The power staff have temporarily stopped installing electric poles in agricultural fields and power was being supplied through service wires.

Surprisingly, the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPDCL), under whose jurisdiction 15 33-kv poles, 1,074 11-kv poles, 1,038 LT poles and 319 transformers were damaged in the rain, claims that it has fixed all the damaged equipment.

Suryapet district suffered heavy destruction too, with over 1,200 poles and four sub-stations damaged. In the Greater Hyderabad limits, 412 poles and 13 DTR structures were damaged. SPDCL officials claimed that all the damaged equipment was repaired on a war footing and that there were no power issues in its jurisdictions.

KLIS: Harish castigates Ponnam for misinformation

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

> **"In an attempt to criticise me, he (Ponnam) exposed his lack of knowledge about irrigation projects**
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>
> — HARISH RAO, BRS MLA

Former Minister and senior BRS leader T Harish Rao gave a strong counter to Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Sunday for his remarks on the Kaleshwaram project, castigating him for spreading misinformation about the massive irrigation initiative. He said the Congress leader lacked a clear understanding of the project and its benefits, especially regarding the Yellampalli reservoir.

In a statement, Harish pointed out that Prabhakar was misleading people by claiming that water in the Mallanna Sagar reservoir was pumped from Yellampally and not Kaleshwaram. He argued that even if the water pumped from Yellampally, it was still part of the broader Kaleshwaram project network, as the Kaleshwaram pumps lift water from Yellampally.

"Ponnam should understand that Kaleshwaram's pumping system is responsible for filling reservoirs such as Mallanna Sagar. In an attempt to criticise me, he exposed his lack of knowledge about irrigation projects," he remarked.

The former Irrigation Minister also targeted the previous Congress administration for its failure to effectively utilise the Yellampally project. He criticised the Congress government for initiating multiple irrigation projects and keeping them incomplete. "The Yellampally project was handed over to us incomplete. The BRS government invested Rs 2,052 crore for land acquisition, rehabilitation and infrastructure to fully operationalise the project," he said.

Harish also thanked Prabhakar for admitting that reservoirs such as Yellampally, Nandimedaram, Mid Manair, Anantagiri, Ranganayaka Sagar, Mallanna Sagar and Kondapochamma Sagar were supposed to be part of the Pranahita project, but said after re-engineering, they had been integrated into the broader Kaleshwaram project. He reiterated that the previous BRS government had only re-engineered the project, but did not change the alignment. He urged Congress leaders to view Kaleshwaram as a comprehensive Godavari River valley development project rather than treating it as multiple separate projects.

The senior BRS legislator dismissed the allegations of the Congress that the damaged Medigadda pillars indicated the failure of the entire Kaleshwaram project, and called them as attempts to mislead the public. He suggested that Congress leaders focus on constructive contributions, particularly in rehabilitating Link-1 of the Kaleshwaram project in time for the 2025 monsoon.

Harish challenged Prabhakar to clarify his stance on Kaleshwaram's achievements, specifically referencing statements made in the Assembly about the acreage irrigated by the project. "If the calculations given in the Assembly are false, we will move a privilege motion against Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy for misleading the legislature," he added.

No Peace Even In Death

People wade through an inundated stretch during a funeral procession in Adilabad. Several areas in the rain-ravaged district are still flooded three weeks after a downpour lashed the region.

BRS panel to study status of TG's public health

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao held a crucial meeting at Telangana Bhavan with the newly constituted three-member committee tasked with examining the public health situation in the State. The committee, chaired by former Deputy Chief Minister T Rajaiah, includes MLA Kalvakuntla Sanjay and former MLA Metuku Anand. The team was formed to study and help the government address the deteriorating health system in Telangana and began its operations today.

The committee's mandate includes visiting several hospitals across the State to assess the current conditions and challenges. It will compile the findings into a structured report, which will be submitted to the State government for further action. Rama Rao emphasised the importance of this initiative, highlighting the need for immediate and effective measures to improve public health services. The BRS aims at ensuring that the healthcare system meets the needs of all citizens, particularly in light of recent concerns about its performance. The committee's work is expected to provide insights and recommendations to help the State government enhance infrastructure and services.

'Healthcare costs will go down in 5-10 years'

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The cost of healthcare will go down in the next five to ten years and India will become the first country in the world to dissociate healthcare from affluence, said Dr Devi Prasad Shetty of Narayana Health (formerly known as Narayana Hrudayalaya).

Delivering the 14th Foundation Day lecture on the topic 'Transforming the Healthcare through Digital Health' at ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE), Dr Shetty said healthcare was being delivered as it was about a century ago, and the sector has not witnessed a major revolution that other sectors like food, communications, and travel have seen that drove down the prices.

"But things are changing, and in a few years, India will prove to the world that the nation's or family's wealth will have nothing to do with the quality of healthcare that citizens will enjoy," he said.

Dr Shetty called for a developing infrastructure to handle simple surgeries, lacking in most developing countries resulting in 17 to 18 million deaths annually. He said health insurance is critical, and with new policies brought out by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), hospitals can become insurance providers.

University Chancellor Dr C Rangarajan said a combination of universal healthcare and insurance could be appropriate for the country and called for a scheme where the government has an important role to play for providing some medical facilities free of cost.

Sobha Rani Yasaswy, chairperson of ICFAI Society' Dr J Mahender Reddy, advisor at IFHE; Prof Vijayalakshmi, registrar; students and faculty attended the lecture, according to a press release issued here on the day.

Ramagundam plant: Engineer unions oppose JV

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Telangana State Power Engineer Association urges government to hand over construction of 800 MW supercritical thermal power station exclusively to GENCO

A day after the State government gave the nod for the construction of an 800 MW supercritical thermal power station at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district, the Telangana State Power Engineer Association expressed displeasure over the decision to construct the plant in a joint venture between TGGENCO and Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

The association, during its general body meeting on Sunday, strongly opposed the joint venture and urged the government to hand over the plant's construction exclusively to GENCO. The members claimed that Singareni was basically a coal mining company and did not have expertise on constructing power plants. Hence, involving it in the construction of the power plant was not advisable. The construction, operation and maintenance of all power plants in the State, except the Singareni plant at Jaipur, are being done by Genco. It has efficient engineers with a lot of experience in constructing power plants. The Telangana State Power Employees Joint Action Committee (TGPEJAC) has also urged the State government not to allocate the construction of the proposed power station in place of the RTS-B station in Ramagundam to Singareni and to instead hand over the contract to TGGENCO.

On the matter of funds for the construction of the power plant, the union leaders said the debt-equity ratio for the construction of the project would be 80:20 and equity of Genco would be used to take up the project. Apart from this, GENCO had to receive about Rs 9,500 crore from power utilities for supplying electricity, which could be used to construct the plant, they said. Besides, TGGENCO had to receive Rs 2,478 crore from APGENCO, Rs 914 crore from APTransco and Rs 3,392 crore from Andhra Pradesh power companies in relation to pension trust of power employees, they said.

The State government on Saturday issued orders asking TGGENCO and SCCL to form a joint venture and construct the thermal plant at Ramagundam. It has asked them to work out the modalities to form a joint venture to construct the power plant. TGGENCO has been directed to prepare a DPR within one month and submit it to the government.

Treasure hunters ransack Gollalla Gudi

STATE BUREAU
Mulugu

Unidentified persons allegedly dug the premises of the Gollalla Gudi, an ancient temple near Ramappa temple, which is recognised by UNESCO as a world heritage site. The treasure hunters destroyed several precious idols on the premises of the temple in Palampeta village of Venkatapur mandal of the district.

According to reports, the miscreants also destroyed the temple's roof. They dug around the temple in search of hidden treasure, destroying several idols in the process. A ladder used by them was found at the temple along with many other items used for digging.

Gollalla Gudi was taken over by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 2021. The ASI officials came to know about the matter late and lodged a complaint with the Venkatapur police on Sunday.

A case has been registered and investigation is under way.

Telangana Today
FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

"They are trying to make the whole country unitary. 'One Nation, One Election' is a step in that direction, the first step to transform the country into an autocracy from a democracy

DIPANKAR BHATTACHARYA
CPI(ML) Liberation leader

Prime Minister Modi should have called his MLAs and ministers and said 'this should not happen in India. Manipur is not a part of any banana republic, I will not allow this to happen, talk it out'

A BIMOL AKOIJAM
Congress MP

We could have gone for a post-poll alliance but it has been formed to give people an option so that there is no hung Assembly and no room for doubt that a govt will not be formed"

OMAR ABDULLAH
National Conference vice-president

Strong message to China

The recently-concluded summit of Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue), a four-nation alliance comprising India, the United States, Australia and Japan, has sent out the strongest- ever message to China over its territorial hegemony, particularly the coercive and intimidating actions in South and East China Sea. Hosted by United States President Joe Biden in his home town Wilmington, Delaware, and attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian and Japanese counterparts Anthony Albanese and Fumio Kishida respectively, the meeting was held against the backdrop of growing geopolitical tensions in West Asia and other regions, and China's increasing belligerence. While Modi, on his part, reiterated India's commitment for a free and open Indo-Pacific that abides by a rules-based international order, the Wilmington Declaration, issued after the meeting, was quite harsh on China and expressed concern over militarisation of disputed areas and coercive manoeuvres in the Indo-Pacific region. The four countries also laid out their positions on Ukraine, a festering conflict zone, and called for peace and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. For the first time, itextensively dealt with the situation in West Asia, calling for a hostage deal and ceasefire immediately and a two-state solution. Quad has become the vehicle to shape the techno-politics of the Indo-Pacific and also to counter the growing influence of China. It serves as a critical forum not just for cooperation among democracies but also for ensuring an open, free and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

> Quad has become the vehicle to shape the techno-politics of Indo-Pacific and also counter China

The grouping should not be seen merely as an anti-China alliance but as a multilateral forum working on a wide range of areas of cooperation to ensure regional peace. Quad partners are working side-by-side with regional allies to bolster maritime security, improve maritime domain awareness, and uphold a free and open Indo-Pacific. India will certainly stand to benefit from such a formidable grouping of democracies, a treaty that holds the potential to emerge as a decisive factor in ensuring a stable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region. Founded in 2017, the key mandate of Quad is to address China's aggressive behaviour and promote the principles of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. The idea is to draw clear red lines for Beijing and insulate other countries from becoming dependent on China's economic and technological patronage. Consistent international pressure alone will force China to adhere to a rules-based international order, transparency and freedom of navigation in the international seas. Quad members feel threatened by China's growing militarisation in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean Rim regions. The issue of free navigation is central to the agenda of Quad. China is involved in territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. It claims sovereignty over the entire South China Sea, while Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have competing claims.

Silent way to mindful state

The realm of silent mindfulness creates a mental space conducive to deep reflection and self-awareness

VIIVECK VERMA

The drive to spectacularly act seems like an imperative, particularly when it comes to pressing issues. One such issue that excites urgency is mental well-being today. It is understandable that most of the widespread discourse around it involves taking action in a big way and seeking help when necessary. While seeking help when needed is incontestably relevant and important, there is also a need to rejuvenate reservoirs of inner resources and build resilience from within. This, unexpectedly can come from a non-spectacular and seemingly less big-on-action place — the realm of silent mindfulness.

Calm and Clarity

Mindfulness is the art of cultivating a heightened state of awareness and presence, wherein one attunes to the capricious ebb and flow of thoughts, emotions, and multiple sensations with non-judgmental and discerning attention, fostering a profound connection to the present moment. A subtle yet profoundly effective approach to enhancing mental health, it is often characterised by its quiet simplicity and deep impact. This practice, as multiple studies demonstrate, can significantly mitigate stress, anxiety and depression by fostering a sense of calm and clarity.

Mindfulness also extends to interactions and routine tasks, encouraging a full engagement with the present. Whether it's through mindful listening in conversations or being fully present during mundane chores, these practices help ground individuals in the here and now. This grounding effect can reduce the tendency to ruminate on past regrets or future anxieties, fostering a more balanced and contented mental state. On this note, it is significant to acknowledge that silence and mindfulness are deeply intertwined, with silence often serving as a foundation for the practice of mindfulness. The relationship between the two can be understood through several key aspects.

Quiet Environment

Firstly, silence provides a backdrop against which mindfulness can flourish. In a world filled with constant noise and distractions, silence offers a rare and valuable opportunity to turn inward. This quiet environment allows individuals to become more attuned to their thoughts, emotions and bodily sensations without external interference. By embracing silence, one can create a mental space conducive to deep reflection and self-awareness — essential components of mindfulness.

Secondly, mindfulness requires a focused and sustained attention that silence naturally supports. The absence of external noise helps minimise distractions, enabling individuals to concentrate fully on the present moment. Whether one is engaging in meditation, mindful breathing, or simply observing their surroundings, silence enhances the ability to maintain this concentrated focus. This undistracted attention is crucial for developing the mindful awareness that allows individuals to notice subtle shifts in their mental and emotional states.

Moreover, silence itself can be a powerful object of mindfulness. By paying attention to the quiet moments, one can cultivate a deeper appreciation for the subtleties of their internal and external experiences. This practice can lead to a heightened sense of presence and an ability to find peace in stillness. Silence, therefore, becomes both the medium and the message of mindfulness, reinforcing the practice through its calming and centring effects.

In summary, silence and mindfulness are closely connected, with silence providing a supportive environment for mindfulness practices. Through the creation of space for awareness, enhancement of concentration and cultivation of appreciation for stillness, silence plays a crucial role in fostering the mindful state. Together, they offer a powerful pathway to mental clarity and emotional well-being. While this theoretical clarity is necessary, we need to also figure out the ways to attain a state of stable mindfulness.

Meditation certainly offers a structured path to this heightened state of awareness. Beyond formal meditation, incorporating mindfulness into daily activities, such as mindful eating which transforms a routine activity into a deeply nourishing practice and enables develop a more profound appreciation for food and a healthier relationship with eating, can improve the way we perceive the present. However, beyond these physical elements, mindfulness ultimately is about cerebral things.

Observing your thoughts without judgement, recognising them as transient events in the mind rather than facts or directives is where being the master of your mind truly begins. On a deeper level, this can be combined with noticing and naming your emotions as they arise, allowing yourself to feel them without being overwhelmed or trying to suppress them. Once we combine these things into practice, we can engage in conversations with full attention, listening actively and responding thoughtfully rather than reactively. Furthermore, we can embrace the present moment as it is, without trying to change or resist it, and acknowledging things that are beyond our control.

> Reminding yourself that thoughts are not facts, you can create a mental distance from the thought, reducing its emotional impact

Sense of Thankfulness

Finally, mindfulness would entail silently taking time to reflect on our experiences, thoughts and feelings, understanding them without getting caught up in them and finally, cultivating an unshakeable sense of thankfulness for the positive aspects of our lives, letting nothing dismantle the mental stability we silently but painstakingly build.

An example can illustrate the workings of this fine approach. Imagine that you are sitting at your desk, feeling stressed about an upcoming deadline. A mindful approach makes you notice the dreadful thought, "I will never finish this on time," but instead of making you react with panic or frustration, it makes you acknowledge it as just a thought. Observing this thought without judgment, you might say to yourself, *"I am having the thought that I will not finish on time."* This is a paradigm shift as now you can explore where this thought is coming from and whether it's based on past experiences or assumptions about the future, considering if it is helpful or causing unnecessary duress. Reminding yourself that thoughts are not facts, you can create a mental distance from the thought, reducing its emotional impact.

Finally, you can refocus on the present moment, perhaps by concentrating on the task at hand and using your breath to centre yourself, thus alleviating stress and being grateful for what you have as you soldier on. In this way, mindfulness helps you manage stress by focusing on your thoughts and your relationship with them and letting you silently take control.

In essence, the silent power of mindfulness lies in its ability to bring the mind into harmonious and favourable alignment with the present moment. By consistently practising mindfulness, individuals can cultivate a resilient and serene mind, better equipped to navigate the challenges of daily life, as they can turn difficult mental landscapes into sites of profound insight, reaffirming our wisdom and the zest for life.

(The author is founder & CEO, Upsurge Global, co-founder, Global Carbon Warriors, and Adjunct Professor, EThames College)

Letters to the Editor

ONOE

'One Nation, One Election' can be just a theory. For this kind of vast population, the election at the same time may not be feasible when considering the peculiarity of States on many things. The government must have an adequate police force for manning the States. The transportation of EVM and the manpower involved call for a larger network for the safe conduct of the election. ONOE can create a terrible mess if implemented in a hurry. And this will lead to an increase in expenditure to offset unforeseen developments later.

AP THIRUVADI, Chennai

Culture of peace

Only if people are at peace with themselves can they live in the present. Peace denotes friendship without hostility at all levels. It is a celebration of culture and ideals of togetherness. The United Nations (UN) realised this as early as 1981 to observe nternational Day of Peace or the World Peace Day on Sept 21. World peace is critical for mankind because peace is akin to the future. When weapons and insolence pave the way for harmony and tranquillity, then the world will be a far better place to live in. World leaders would do a yeoman's service to mankind by sacrificing love for power for power of love. "Cultivating the culture of peace", is an apt theme for 2024.

GANAPATHI BHAT, Akola

Write to us at letters@telanganatoday.com

Cartoon Today

India in the hotspot

■ The New York Times

Motel 6 is sold to India's Oyo

Motel 6, the budget hotel chain that has lined American highways for decades, will be sold to Oyo, an India-based hotel operator. Blackstone said the transaction would be an all-cash deal for $525 million.

■ Dhaka Tribune

B'desh to export 3,000 tons of ilish

In anticipation of the upcoming Durga Puja, the Ministry of Commerce has granted approval for the export of 3,000 tons of ilish to India. This announcement was made in a press release issued by the Ministry.

■ The Japan Times

Ammunition from India enters Ukraine

Artillery shells sold by Indian arms makers have been diverted by European customers to Ukraine and New Delhi has not intervened despite protests from Moscow, according to government and industry officials.

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In Brief

CHENNAI

Three electrocuted

In a tragic incident, three persons including a Class 7 student were electrocuted to death when they inadvertently stepped onto an illegal electric fence erected to prevent wild boars from entering into the farmlands. The incident occurred in Perumpattu village at the foothills of Yelagiri hills near Jolarpet town in Tamil Nadu's Tirupathur district on Sunday. Police said the deceased persons were identified as K. Singaram (45), an ayurveda practitioner, his son S. Lokesh (15) and S Karipriyan (65) who is a farm help of Singaram. IANS

THANE

Man booked for rape

Police have launched an investigation after a woman lodged an FIR alleging rape by her brother-in-law who forced her to abort her pregnancy in the Thane district, an official said on Sunday. The complainant claimed that her 32-year-old brother-in-law raped her at her sister's house on January 26 and multiple times in subsequent months. The victim claimed the accused took her to a hospital in Mumbra and forced her to terminate her pregnancy. He also threatened her parents, the official said. No arrest has been made so far. PTI

Kejriwal targets RSS over PM's actions

Says parent organisation should keep its child in control

PTI
NEW DELHI

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal with Delhi CM Atishi and former deputy CM Manish Sisodia during 'Janta Ki Adalat, at Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

In a new political strategy, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday demanded answers from the RSS for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's actions, in an apparent bid to diminish his stature by implying that the parent Hindutva organisation was the master which should keep its child in control.

"Has the son become so big now that it is showing attitude to his mother?" Kejriwal said at a rally where he demanded five answers from Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat. The questions he asked were political softballs but the implication of bringing Bhagwat into his new political narrative is new and unusual. Kejriwal wanted to know if the RSS agreed with the BJP's politics of using central agencies to break up parties and topple opposition governments, and inducting "corrupt" leaders into its fold.

In his first 'Janta ki Adalat' public meeting at Jantar Mantar following his resignation as Delhi CM, Kejriwal also asked Bhagwat if the BJP's rule on the age of retirement would apply to Modi as it did for LK Advani. He questioned Bhagwat if he agreed with the BJP's president JP Nadda said his party did not need the RSS, which is the saffron party's ideological mentor. He further questioned if the RSS chief was satisfied with the BJP's current politics.

"The RSS and the BJP had made the rule that every leader would retire when they reached 75 years of age. Under this rule, senior leaders like LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Kalraj Mishra and others were retired. Now (Home Minister) Amit Shah says this rule does not apply to Modi ji," Kejriwal said.

"Do you agree with this fact that the rule that applied for Advani ji will not apply to Modiji?" he asked Bhagwat.

While Kejriwal was addressing the gathering, the BJP held a protest against him and AAP on issues of corruption at Connaught Place, barely a kilometre away from Jantar Mantar. The saffron party held another protest against Kejriwal at Rajghat on the same issue.

Jagan urges Modi to reprimand Naidu

Calls AP CM a 'pathological and habitual liar'

AMARAVATI

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to severely reprimand Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for hurting the beliefs of crores of people for political objectives by spreading a lie that "the ghee used for making Tirupati laddu contained animal fat".

Calling Naidu a "pathological and a habitual liar", Jaganmohan Reddy said he had stopped so low as to seriously hurt the beliefs of crores of people purely for political objectives. Stating that Naidu was making attempts to irreparably tarnish the sanctity, integrity, and reputation of TTD, he cautioned that these lies could precipitate widespread agony, having far-reaching consequences on various fronts.

"His actions have indeed lowered not only the statue of a Chief Minister but also that of everyone in public life and also the sanctity of the world-renowned TTD and its practices. Sir, the entire country looks to you at this critical juncture. It is very imperative that Naidu be reprimanded in a severe way for his shameless act of spreading lies and the truth be brought to light," he wrote in the letter.

He stated this would help allay the suspicions that Naidu created in the minds of crores of Hindu devotees and restore faith in the sanctity of the TTD. Jagan alleged that Naidu made the false allegation to divert people's attention from the failure of his government.

Naidu spread blatant lies against the practices of the TTD by alleging that the ghee that was being used in the preparation of the prasadams in the temple was adulterated and that the ghee contained animal fats. This is indeed a lie spread with political motives and this false propaganda has the potential to hurt the sentiments of Hindus, he said. Jagan mentioned that the tanker containing the possibly adulterated ghee arrived at Tirupati on July 12, 2024, and the same was rejected and the ghee was not used in the preparation of the prasadams. IANS

Pawan Kalyan begins 'Prayaschit Deeksha'

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Sunday began his 11-day *Prayaschit Deeksha* (penance) at a temple in Guntur district for alleged adulteration of animal fat in Tirupati laddu.

He began the Deeksha at the Sri Dasavatara Venkateswara Swamy temple in Nambur after performing puja and rituals conducted by the priests. The actor-politician said after the 'Deeksha', he would seek the blessings of Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy in Tirumala to pray to God to give him the strength to cleanse the sins committed by past rulers. The Deputy CM said he was personally pained over the use of ghee adulterated with fish oil and animal fat for Laddu Prasadam and hence he decided to undertake *Praschit Deekhsha.* In a statement before launching Deeksha, he stated that the sacred Tirumala Laddu Prasadam, revered by millions, had been defiled due to the depraved actions of the previous ruler. IANS

'Where there is no devotion, there shall be no sanctity'

NEW DELHI: Amid a raging row over the alleged presence of animal fat in Tirupati Laddu, spiritual leader and Isha Foundation founder Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev on Sunday said beef tallow in temple 'prasadam' was beyond disgusting. Advocating that the temples should be run by devotees and not by government and administrations, he said "Where there is no devotion, there shall be no sanctity.

In a post on social media platform X, he said: "Devotees consuming beef tallow in the Temple prasadam is beyond disgusting. This is why Temples should be run by Devotees, not by government administrations. Where there is no Devotion, there shall be no sanctity. Time the Hindu Temples are run by devout Hindus, not by government administration."

On Saturday, former Congress leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam expressed concern over the issue and called it a "very dangerous conspiracy" targeting Sanatan Dharma. IANS

Dalits seek action against Jana Sena MLA

AMARAVATI

Dalit groups have demanded action against Jana Sena MLA Pantham Venkateswara Rao for allegedly assaulting and abusing a senior doctor of Rangaraya Medical College (RMC) in Kakinada.

The MLA from Kakinada Rural constituency along with his followers barged into the playground of RMC and assaulted and abused P. Uma Maheswara Rao for not allowing outsiders to play in the ground, Dalit groups said.

Jana Sena is a partner in the TDP-led NDA government in Andhra Pradesh. The MLA, who is also known as Nanaji, threatened to kill the doctor, pulled his mask, and raised his hand to hit him. The MLA's supporters also assaulted the doctor. The incident occurred on Saturday night when some local youth complained to the MLA that they were not being allowed to play volleyball in RMC Ground.

Uma Maheswara Rao, head of the forensic department and secretary of the Sports Board of RMC, and other doctors had barred the entry of outsiders into the playground as students complained that they were not getting a chance to play. The female students also stopped using the ground due to the "misbehaviour" of the outsiders.

On Saturday evening when outsiders were not allowed to enter the playground, they picked up into an argument with RMC Vice-Principal Vishnu Vardhan, other doctors and students and created a nuisance. Some locals complained to the MLA and alleged that RMC doctors were abusing him. IANS

Kerala man's background verified post-Lebanon blasts

WAYANAD (KERALA)

Amid reports linking Rinson Jose, a Kerala native settled in Norway, to the probe into recent pager blasts in Lebanon, the Kerala police on Sunday confirmed a background check on his family, while a BJP leader referred to him as a "son of our nation" and demanded protection."There is no case or investigation. Our special branch officials have carried out a background check. There is nothing new in it; such checks are conducted whenever similar news reports emerge," a police officer said.

Another police official said that a "precautionary patrol" has been launched in the area near Mananthavady where his family resides following the reports. He said that his family has not requested police protection.

Rinson, who went abroad for a job a decade ago, is now a Norwegian citizen. Meanwhile, BJP leader Sandeep G Varier called for protection for Rinson and his family. "He is the son of our nation. He is a Malayali. At any cost, we must provide protection to Rinson and his family," Varier, a State committee member of the BJP said.

His maternal uncle, Thankachan, said, "He grew up here in Wayanad and studied both here and outside Kerala. After completing his MBA, he left India 10 years ago. He had been studying abroad before joining a company. As far as we know, he is currently working for a company in Norway." Rinson last visited Kerala in November of last year and left in January. "We are not sure whether he runs his own business in Norway. His wife also works in Norway," Thankachan said. "We are 100 per cent certain that he would not commit any wrongdoing," Thankachen had said. He also appealed to the media not to put the family in a difficult position. Asked about reports concerning a shell company being investigated by Norwegian authorities in connection with the Pager blasts, Thankachan responded, "Sorry, I have no information about that." PTI

Desertions continue in YSRCP

AMARAVATI

YS Jaganmohan Reddy-led YSRCP, the opposition party in Andhra Pradesh, continues to suffer a steady stream of desertions from the party's top leaders, Rajya Sabha members, corporators and others.

This exodus phenomenon started before the 2024 general elections and continues to be unabated even after four months of the new NDA alliance of TDP, BJP and Janasena forming the government in the southern State. Nearly half a dozen MPs quit the party before the polls, some of whom, such as L Sri Krishnadevarayalu and M Srinivasulu Reddy, went on to be re-elected as TDP MPs. PTI

MAJESTIC

A Royal Bengal tiger yawns at the National Zoological Park, in New Delhi on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

BJP govt must in J&K to teach a Pak lesson, says Amit Shah

NOWSHERA (J&K)

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah holds the party flag as he takes a 'shikara' ride on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

There will be no talks with Pakistan till terrorism is eliminated, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday, asserting the BJP must come to power in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure peace and teach the neighbouring country a lesson.

Addressing an election rally here, Shah also slammed the Gandhi and Abdullah families claiming they have joined hands to end reservation but they will not be allowed to do so. "After the counting of votes on October 8, your so-called 'Mohabbat Ki Dukan' is going to be closed," Shah said, taking a jibe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's slogan of 'Nafrat Ke Bazaar Mein, Mohabbat Ki Dukan' which he often used during his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The Home Minister castigated the National Conference, Congress and PDP over the issue of terrorism and said no stone-pelter or terrorist would be released from jail. After forming a government in J&K, the BJP will issue a white paper to expose the role of the three families who had 'biryani' with terrorists, he told the rally in support of J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina ahead of the second phase of elections on September 25.

Shah said he would like to talk to the youths of J&K whom he referred to as lions. "The BJP government is a must in J&K for peace, prosperity and development besides giving a befitting reply to terrorism and teaching a lesson to Pakistan," Shah said, urging them to vote for BJP, especially Raina whom he praised for strengthening the party in the region. This was the sixth rally of the Home Minister in the Jammu region in the past two days after reaching the city of temples on a three-day visit Friday evening. PTI

NC, Cong unite to avoid hung Assembly in J&K

SRINAGAR: The National Conference's pre-poll alliance with the Congress for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections was formed to give people an option to avoid a hung House, party vice-president Omar Abdullah said on Sunday.

According to the seat-share agreement, the National Conference is contesting 51 seats, the Congress 32 and the CPI(M) one. The remaining six seats will witness a "friendly contest" between the Congress and the National Conference. Abdullah — who spoke to reporters at a shikara rally in the Dal lake in support of the party's Zadibal candidate Tanvir Sadiq — said, "Maybe they have something which allows them to see what has gone into the machines, we don't know what has gone into the machines. What we have heard from the people, there is no room for hung elections." "We could have gone for a post-poll alliance but the alliance has been formed (before elections) to give people an option so that there is no hung assembly and there is no room for doubt that a government will not be formed," he added. PTI

BJP will be routed in Maha: Satya Pal Malik

MUMBAI

Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik met Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray here on Sunday and said he will campaign for the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the upcoming Maharashtra polls. Malik, a vocal critic of the current administration, expressed confidence that the MVA will emerge victorious and claimed the ruling BJP would be "wiped out" in the State elections, likely to be held in November.

He suggested the MVA allies — Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP) — make adjustments and stay united for the assembly polls. Malik, who had played a crucial role in the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, met former Uddhav Thackeray.

The ruling Mahayuti in the state comprises the Shiv Sena led by CM Eknath Shinde, BJP and the Ajit Pawar-headed NCP. Asked about his views on the upcoming polls to the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly, Malik said, "The BJP will not just receive a major blow, but the party will be wiped out in the State elections. Uddhav Thackeray will play the most important role in this election. You need not worry." PTI

Quad flags China's aggression

Says peace and stability must in Indo-Pacific region; Quad more strategically aligned than ever before

PTI
WILMINGTON (US)

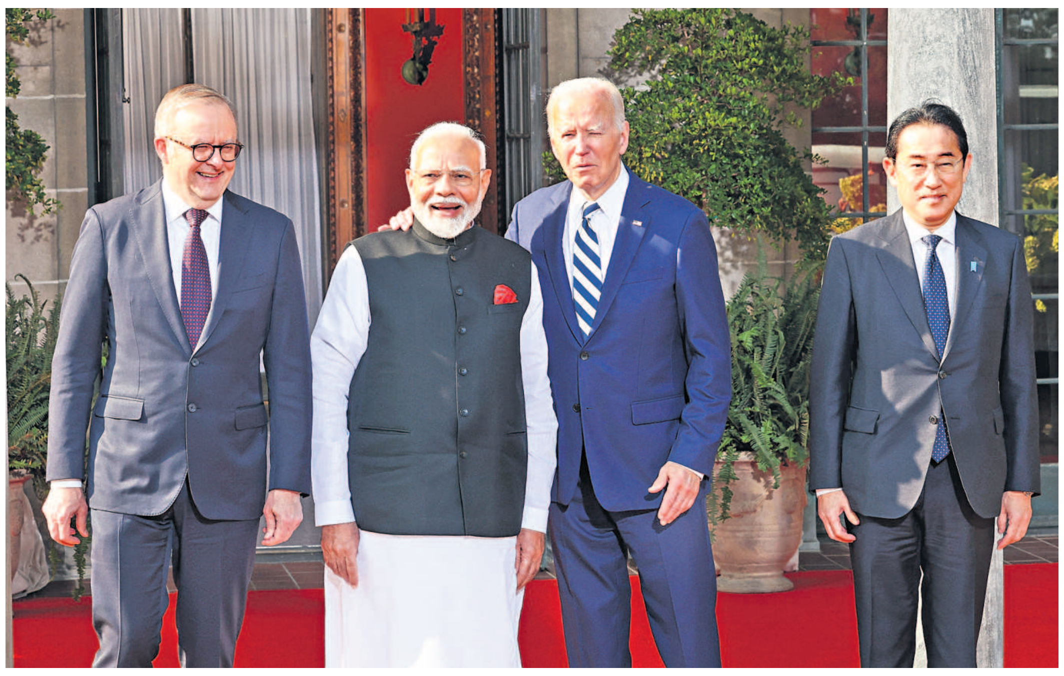
The four-member Quad is a force for good and is more strategically aligned than ever before, a joint declaration issued after the meeting of the grouping's leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has said.

Hosted by President Joe Biden, the Quad Leaders' Summit took place on Saturday in his hometown Wilmington, Delaware. It was attended by Prime Minister Modi, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan. "Four years since elevating the Quad to a leader-level format, the Quad is more strategically aligned than ever before and is a force for good that delivers real, positive, and enduring impact for the Indo-Pacific," said the Wilmington Declaration issued after the fourth in-person Quad Summit.

Focus on stability

"We celebrate the fact that over just four years, Quad countries have built a vital and enduring regional grouping that will buttress the Indo-Pacific for decades to come," the declaration said. "As four leading maritime democracies in the Indo-Pacific, we unequivocally stand for the maintenance of peace and stability across this dynamic region, as an indispensable element of global security and prosperity," it said, adding the grouping strongly opposes any destabilising or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion, in a veiled reference to China. China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. It claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea. Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims.

"We condemn recent illicit missile launches in the region that violate UN Security Council resolutions. We express serious concern over recent dangerous and aggressive actions in the maritime domain. We seek a region where no country dominates and no country is dominated—one where all countries are free from coercion, and can exercise their agency to determine their futures," the declaration said. The four nations are committed to upholding a "stable and open "international system, with its strong support for human rights, the principle of freedom, the rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and peaceful settlement of disputes and prohibition on the threat or use of force under international law, including the UN Charter.



President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the Quad Leaders Summit in Delaware, USA, on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

US to return 297 Indian antiquities

WILMINGTON (US): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed deep appreciation for US President Joe Biden for ensuring the return of 297 invaluable antiquities to India. Prime Minister Modi is in the US for a three-day visit to "further strengthen India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership."

"Deepening cultural connect and strengthening the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural properties. I am extremely grateful to President Biden and the US Government for ensuring the return of 297 invaluable antiquities to India. @POTUS @JoeBiden," Prime Minister Modi posted on X. In July, India and the US signed their first agreement to prevent illegal trafficking of cultural property and return of antiquarian objects to their place of origin. "Preserving heritage and culture: restituting antiquities. The US side has facilitated the return of 297 stolen or trafficked antiquities during the visit of PM @narendramodi to US," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X. "PM @narendramodi and @POTUS @JoeBiden witnessed a few antiquities on the sidelines of their bilateral meeting as a symbolic handing over of the artifacts. PTI

Divide and rule strategy, says China

BEIJING: China's official media Sunday accused Quad of resorting to a divide-and-rule strategy to sow discord between Beijing and its neighbours, a day after the four-member grouping's summit decided to expand its Indo-Pacific Partnership.

While the Chinese Foreign Ministry is yet to react to the summit which the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post stated The Chinese official media said the summit focus was China-containment strategy and this was evident from . Biden's statement.

Modi calls India 'a land of opportunities'

Prime Minister applauds role of Indian Americans in strengthening the relationship between India and United States

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that he has set very ambitious goals in his third term to make the country a developed nation and asserted that India today is a land of opportunities.

"After going through this tough election process, this long election system, something unprecedented happened in India (this year). What happened... 'Abkibaar Modi Sarkaar,' Modi said in his address to thousands of Indian Americans in New York.

"For the first time in 60 years, the people of India have given a mandate which has great significance. During my third term, I have very ambitious goals to achieve. We have to move forward with three times the strength," he said. Modi said he has dedicated his life for good governance and for a prosperous India. Observing that destiny brought him to politics, he said he had never thought of becoming a Chief Minister or Prime Minister.

Over the last 10 years, people have seen this model of governance and thus have voted him to power for a third term, he added. The Prime Minister was addressing a packed Nassau Veterans Coliseum with more than 13,000 Indian Americans. While the majority of them were from the New York and New Jersey area, Indian Americans came in from 40 States, organisers said. Sixty charter buses were used for transportation purposes.

Applauding the role of Indian Americans in strengthening the relationship between India and the US, he called them India's brand ambassadors. Referring to a Sanskrit shloka that "it is those who make sacrifices reap benefits", the PM said wherever the Indian diaspora lives, they contribute to the societal and national development in every field. "While the elections in India are over, it's under process in the United States. The elections that were just held in India were the biggest elections so far in human history. When we see the scale of India's democracy, we are even more proud," he said. PTI

PM's trip to Ukraine hailed

WILMINGTON (US): US President Joe Biden commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Ukraine last month and his message of peace, as the two leaders held wide-ranging talks that figured pressing global challenges including the situation in the war-ravaged country. Biden hosted Modi at his personal home in Wilmington, hours after the Prime Minister arrived in the US on a three-day visit.

At a media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, while answering a question on defusing the Ukraine crisis, said "very important" conversations are underway with multiple people on all sides of the conflict. PTI

In Brief

NEW DELHI

India to clock 7 pc growth

India continues to be a bright spot in an otherwise gloomy global outlook and the country could clock a 7 per cent growth in the current fiscal despite the headwinds, Deloitte South Asia CEO Romal Shetty has said. Shetty, who is the youngest chief executive of a Big Four accounting and consultancy firm in India, said inflation is reasonably under control, there has been a pick-up in rural demand and vehicle sales are improving. "We believe that we would be in the 7-7.1 per cent range in terms of the growth. India is in a better position, he said. PTI

PATNA

12 lakh hit due to floods

The flood-like situation in Bihar was grim with 12.67 lakh people remaining affected in 12 districts, although water level has started receding in some places in the state, an official statement said on Sunday. While the water level of Ganga River has started decreasing in Patna and its surrounding areas, the rising trend of water levels in several rivers in other districts is affecting low-lying areas. A total of 361 panchayats have been impacted. Around 1,400 boats are being used in rescue and relief operations.

CHANDIGARH

Cabinet rejig in Punjab

The Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government is likely to effect a cabinet reshuffle on Monday with speculations being rife that four to five MLAs may be inducted while a few ministers may be dropped. However, there was no official confirmation on the reshuffle in the Aam Aadmi Party government. In case there is indeed a reshuffle, the swearing-in ceremony is likely to take place at the Raj Bhavan on Monday, sources said. The likely Cabinet reshuffle would come days after AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal was released from jail.

Anil Ambani's Reliance group on a comeback

Announces it has turned into nearly zero debt

NEW DELHI

Anil Ambani's Reliance Group has in recent years seen marquee firms being auctioned in insolvency proceedings and piling debt-fold businesses.

But the group has, in the week gone by, made announcements that investors believe may mark its transformation.

In three days -- from September 18 to 20 -- the group announced it has turned into nearly zero debt and is implementing long-term fund raising plans that are said to solidify its financial position.

Reliance Infrastructure's board approved fund raising of up to Rs 6,000 crore via preferential issue and QIP, while Reliance Power board is meeting on September 23 to consider and approve the fundraise via multiple routes. The speed at which Anil Ambani moved to clear the debt of his companies, and simultaneously announce and execute the fund raising plans for future expansion of his companies, has surprised the investors.

Shares of both firms surged. The announcement to invest Rs 1,100 crore by the promoters group in Anil Ambani's flagship company, Reliance Infrastructure, has further boosted the confidence of investors in the group's revival plans and its long-term growth story, investors said. Anil Ambani's twin strategy of debt reduction, coupled with fresh capital raising, has set the stage for a long-term transformation of the Reliance Group, they feel. Reliance Infrastructure's market capitalisation by the end of this week surged nearly 50 per cent, rising from Rs 8,500 crore to Rs 12,500 crore. Similarly, Reliance Power's market capitalisation increased over 25 per cent, moving from Rs 11,500 crore to Rs 14,600 crore. Reliance Infra announced a significant reduction in standalone external debt, lowering it from Rs 3,831 crore to just Rs 475 crore. PTI

BSF Initiative

Locals at an open air gym set up by BSF along the India-Bangaldesh border in Nadia district of West Bengal. — Photo: PTI

LPG cylinder found on rail tracks in UP

KANPUR

An empty LPG cylinder was found on the tracks by a goods train driver, who applied emergency brakes and stopped the train near Prempur station in Kanpur on Sunday, the second such incident in Uttar Pradesh this month. An FIR was lodged with the Government Railway Police (GRP), Kanpur, against unidentified persons on the suspicion that the cylinder was a possible sabotage bid, Additional DG (Railways) Prakash D said.

The FIR has been registered under sections 287 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the BNS and under the Railways Act, he added. Police said the incident occurred at 8:10 am when the train was going to Allahabad from Kanpur. "It was found that the cylinder was of five-kg capacity and empty. It was removed from the track. The matter is being investigated," the local police said in a statement.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Shrawan Kumar Singh said, "The loco pilot alerted the railway officials who passed the information to the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Kanpur police, which launched the investigation into the matter." PTI

Railway officials remove gas cylinder from the railway track near Prempur station, in Kanpur on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

'Harmless' detonators go off on track

KHANDWA: Ten detonators, which the railways terms "harmless", recently went off on tracks in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district, prompting authorities to briefly halt a "military special train", officials said on Sunday. The incident happened on Wednesday near Sagphata between Nepanagar and Khandwa stations. The RPF is probing it, Central Railway's Chief Public Relations Officer Swapnil Nila said. PTI

Have patience, CJI to law graduates

BENGALURU

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said true leaders recognise their strengths and weaknesses, and use their strengths to build others up while seeking help to cover their blind spots.

Speaking at the 32nd Annual Convocation Ceremony of National Law School of India University here, he stressed on the importance of individuality and decision making with patience. "Whatever your path is in the coming years, your own decisions are likely to have positive consequences and I urge you to embark on this journey with patience and humility as your companions," he said. PTI

Sangareddy college alumni secure record AEE posts

T KARNAKAR REDDY
Sangareddy

The alumni of the College of Agriculture Engineering, Sangareddy, a constituent college of Jayashankar Agriculture University, bagged 78 posts of the 95 posts of assistant executive engineers (AEE), for which recruitment done by Irrigation Department.

The management of the engineering college invited all the selected candidates to the college and celebrated the achievement by organising a felicitation for the selected candidates.

Since it is the only engineering college offering B-Tech (Agriculture) in Telangana, the remaining job aspirants had completed their engineering from other private colleges in various parts of India. However, the students of the Sangareddy College, which was set up in 2011, secured over 81 per cent of the posts on offer. Of the 2,000 students who appeared for examination, nearly 350 aspirants were from Sangareddy College.

The BRS government issued a job notification in 2022 for recruiting 100 agriculture engineers. However, the exam, conducted in January 2023, was cancelled following a paper leak. Later, another examination was conducted in May 2023 and the results were announced on June 15, 2024. The college management celebrated the moment by organising a programme on September 15 on the occasion of Engineers Day. Speaking to *Telangana Today*, Golla Venkatesh, who completed B-Tech from the college in 2022, said that 14 out of 60 of his classmates got jobs while the students of the 2014-18 batch got 15 selections. Venkatesh, a resident of Kadpal, said that he was on cloud nine after seeing the results as most of his friends and seniors got the jobs.

Associate Dean of Sangareddy College Manoj Kumar said that such achievements would inspire the students to achieve something better. Students Affairs (OSD), Charith Kumar said that those selections would stand an example for the quality of the teaching being imparted at the college.

Hezbollah declares 'open-ended battle'

Outfit warns Israel of unexpected attacks 'from outside the box'

Sparks fly at the site of an Israeli airstrike on the outskirts of the southern Lebanese village of Zawtar. — Photo: AFP

AP
NAHARIYA

Hezbollah fired over 100 rockets early on Sunday across northern Israel, with some landing near the city of Haifa, as Israel launched hundreds of strikes on Lebanon.

A Hezbollah leader declared an "open-ended battle" was underway as both sides appeared to be spiralling closer toward all-out war. The overnight rocket barrage was in response to Israeli attacks in Lebanon that have killed dozens, including a veteran Hezbollah commander, and an unprecedented attack targeting the group's communications devices. Air raid sirens across northern Israel sent hundreds of thousands of people scrambling into shelters.

One struck near a residential building in Kiryat Bialik, a city near Haifa, wounding at least three people and setting buildings and cars ablaze. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said four people were wounded.

Avi Vazana raced to a shelter with his wife and 9-month-old baby before he heard the rocket hitting. Then he went back outside to see if anyone was hurt.

"I ran without shoes, without a shirt, only with pants. I ran to this house when everything was still on fire to try to find if there are other people," he said. Lebanon's Health Ministry said three people were killed and four wounded in Israeli strikes near the border, without saying whether they were civilians or combatants.

Hezbollah responds to unprecedented blows The rocket attacks followed an Israeli airstrike Friday in Beirut killed at least 45 people, including Akil, one of Hezbollah's top leaders, several other fighters, and women and children.

Hezbollah was already reeling from a sophisticated attack that caused thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies to explode just days earlier. But it faces a difficult balance of stretching the rules of engagement by hitting deeper into Israel, while at the same time trying to avoid large-scale attacks on civilian areas and infrastructure that could trigger a full-scale war that it would rather not start and take the blame for.

Hezbollah's deputy leader Naim Kassem said Sunday's rocket attack was just the beginning of what's now an "open-ended battle" with Israel. He vowed Hezbollah will continue military operations against Israel in support of Gaza but also warned of unexpected attacks "from outside the box," pointing to rockets fired deeper into Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would take whatever action was necessary to restore security in the north and allow people to return to their homes. "No country can accept the wanton rocketing of its cities. We can't accept it either," he said.

Israel shuts down Al Jazeera bureau in West Bank

DUBAI: Israeli troops raided the offices of the satellite news network Al Jazeera in the Israeli-occupied West Bank early Sunday, ordering the bureau to shut down amid a widening campaign by Israel targeting the Qatar-funded broadcaster as it covers the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. Al Jazeera aired footage of Israeli troops live on its Arabic-language channel ordering the office to be shut for 45 days.

It follows an order issued in May that saw Israeli police raid Al Jazeera's broadcast position in East Jerusalem, seizing equipment there, preventing its broadcasts in Israel and blocking its websites. The move marked the first time Israel has ever shuttered a foreign news outlet operating in the country. However, Al Jazeera has continued operating in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, territories that the Palestinians hope to have for their future state.

Al Jazeera denounced the move as it continued broadcasting live from Amman, Jordan. Armed Israeli troops entered the office and told a reporter live on air that it would be shut down, saying that staff needed to leave immediately. The network later aired what appeared to be Israel troops tearing down a banner on a balcony used by the Al Jazeera office. Al Jazeera said it bore an image of Shireen Abu Akleh, a Palestinian-American journalist shot dead by Israeli forces in May 2022.

"There is a court ruling for closing down Al Jazeera for 45 days," an Israeli soldier told Al Jazeera's local bureau chief, Walid al-Omari, in the live footage. "I ask you to take all the cameras and leave the office at this moment."

Documents confiscated

Al-Omari said that Israeli troops began confiscating documents and equipment in the bureau, as tear gas and gunshots could be seen and heard in the area. Speaking later to the AP, al-Omari said that the Israeli military cited laws dating back to the British Mandate of Palestine to support its closure order. The Palestinians secured limited self-rule in Gaza and parts of the occupied West Bank through the 1993 Oslo agreements. While Israel occupies and controls vast areas of the West Bank, Ramallah is under full Palestinian political and security control, making the Israeli raid on the Al Jazeera office that much more surprising. The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate denounced the Israeli raid and order.

"This arbitrary military decision is a new aggression against journalistic work and media outlets," it said. The Palestinian Authority administers parts of the West Bank. Its forces were driven from Gaza when Hamas seized power in 2007, and it has no power there. AP

In Brief

KHARTOUM

11 dead in violence

At least 11 people, including three children, were killed and 17 others injured in armed clashes between the Sudanese Armed For ces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in El Fasher, the capital of western North Darfur State, the non-governmental Sudanese Doctors Network announced in a statement. It warned of continued and escalating clashes in densely populated city. IANS

ROME

Two siblings killed in Italy

A two-storey building collapsed in the southern Italian province of Naples early Sunday, killing two young siblings and leaving their mother and an older woman trapped under, Italian firefighters said. On their official Tele gram channel, the firefighters said a gas explosion likely caused the collapse. Rescuers in the town of Saviano recovered the bodies of a 6-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl. AP

ISLAMABAD

Zakir Naik to tour Pakistan

Zakir Naik, the controversial religious figure who is wanted by India's NIA for his involvement in unlawful activities and promoting religious hatred, will be visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Shehbaz Sharif government to deliver a series of public lectures next month. He will start his trip from October 5 in Karachi and conclude it in Islamabad on October 20. IANS

Dissanayake is Sri Lanka's next President

COLOMBO

Anura Kumara Dissanayaka

Marxist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Sunday was declared winner of the Sri Lankan presidential election by the country's Election Commission after an unprecedented second round of counting of votes.

Dissanayake, 56, the leader of the Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna party's broader front National People's Power (NPP), defeated his closest rival Sajith Premadasa of Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB). Incumbent president Ranil Wickremesinghe was eliminated in the first round after he failed to become within the top two in the vote list.

NPP said Dissanayake will take oath on Monday. He will be the 9th President of the island nation. After being defeated in the election, Wickremesinghe bid an emotional farewell to his 26-month tenure, marking the end of his presidency.

Addressing President-elect Dissanayake in a statement, the 75-year-old outgoing President said, "President Anura Dissanayake, I am handing over to your care the lovable child of Sri Lanka." He said that over the last two years he has safely carried the Sri Lanka child on the vine bridge, and "I wish that under your care as the new president, the child is carried safely to the end of his destination".

The election on Saturday was the first to be held since mass protests unseated Gotabaya Rajapaksa in 2022 after the country suffered an economic crisis. Earlier, the Election Commission ordered a second round of counting after no candidate secured over 50 per cent votes needed to be declared the winner of Saturday's election. In the first round of counting, Dissanayake topped the chart by securing 5.63 million votes or 42.31 per cent, followed by Opposition leader Premadasa with 4.36 million votes or 32.8 per cent and Wickremesinghe getting only 2.29 million votes or 17.27 per cent of the total votes polled.

No election in Sri Lanka has ever progressed to the second round of counting, as single candidates have always emerged as clear winners based on first-preference votes. The accession of Dissanayake, who is popularly known as AKD, to the top post is a remarkable turnaround for his half-century-old party JVP. He is Sri Lanka's first-ever Marxist party leader to become head of state. Dissanayake's anti-corruption message and his promise of a change in political culture resonated strongly with young voters who have been demanding system change since the economic crisis. Dissanayake hails from rural Thambuttegama in the North Central province. PTI

Iran, Cuba against US' 'hostile' policies

TEHRAN

Iran and Cuba have reaffirmed mutual support for addressing US hostile policies and sanctions, said the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Sunday.

In a meeting on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi and his Cuban counterpart, Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, discussed bilateral ties as well as regional and international issues of common interest, the Ministry said in a statement as reported by Xinhua news agency.

According to the statement, Araghchi condemned the "unilateral and political" US move of putting Cuba on the list of the so-called "State Sponsors of Terrorism," which also includes Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and described it as being in continuation of Washington's "hostile" policies. He said Iran, one of the US sanctions' victims, completely understands the Cuban people's conditions and would support Cuba in the face of Washington's embargoes. The Cuban Foreign Minister also said his country would back Iran against the US "hostile" policies. Both Iran and Cuba are under US sanctions and have been promoting cooperation to counter the embargoes for years. IANS

4 killed, 20 injured in US mass shooting

BIRMINGHAM

Four people have died and more than 20 were wounded in a shooting in a nightlife area in Birmingham, Alabama, according to police and news reports. There were multiple people shot on 20th Street near Magnolia Avenue in the Five Points South area on Saturday, the Birmingham Police Department said in a social media post.

Birmingham Officer Truman Fitzgerald said the shooting with up to 21 people wounded happened shortly after 11 pm in the 2000 block of Magnolia Avenue South, AL.COM reported. Fitzgerald said there were "dozens of gunshot victims" and at least four had "life-threatening" injuries, AL.COM reported.

Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service pronounced the three victims dead on the scene and a fourth person was pronounced dead at University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital, AL.COM reported. Police said the victims found dead at the scene included two men and a woman.

> Police say there were "dozens of gunshot victims" and at least four had "life-threatening" injuries

Other victims were transported to hospitals in private vehicles, police told WBMA. The Five Points South area of Birmingham has numerous entertainment venues, restaurants and bars and often is crowded on Saturday nights. Police said there were no immediate arrests. "We will do everything we possibly can to make sure we uncover, identify and hunt down whoever is responsible for preying on our people this morning," Fitzgerald told WBMA. AP

N Korea sends more trash balloons toward South

SEOUL

North Korea sent more balloons likely carrying trash toward South Korea on Sunday, the South's military said, just four days after a similar launch.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said that North Korea resumed its balloon campaign and warned the balloons may float toward Seoul and the surrounding Gyeonggi Province, Yonhap news agency reported.

Since late May, the North has launched thousands of balloons carrying trash in retaliation against anti-Pyongyang leaflets sent across the border by North Korean defectors and activists in South Korea. In response to the balloon launches, the South's military has been blasting daily anti-North Korean propaganda broadcasts through loudspeakers on the border since July 21. IANS

Iran coal mine explosion claims 34 lives

TEHRAN

Miners and police officers at the site of a coal mine where methane leak sparked an explosion, in Tabas Iran on Sunday. — Photo: AP

An explosion in a coal mine in eastern Iran killed at least 34 workers and injured 17 others, officials said on Sunday, marking one of the worst mining disasters in the country's history as others remained missing hours after the blast.

The blast struck a coal mine in Tabas, about 540 km southeast of the capital, Tehran, on Saturday night. By Sunday, weeping miners stood alongside mine cars that brought up the bodies of their colleagues, all covered in coal dust. Around 70 people had been working at the time of the blast.

State television later said that 17 were believed to be trapped at a depth of 200 meters down a 700-meter tunnel. However, figures kept changing throughout Sunday regarding the disaster in the rural area with some reports suggesting the death toll was higher.

A provincial emergency official, Mohammad Ali Akhoundi, told the state-run IRNA news agency Sunday afternoon that the death toll had reached at least 34 as rescue efforts continued. Survivors interviewed by state TV, still smudged in coal dust, described chaotic scenes after the blast. "We were in the mine, working. Suddenly there was some smoke rising ... then I noticed I had difficulty breathing," said one miner.

"I jumped off from the workshop and I scrambled until I reached somewhere (safe). My friends (remained) in there." Authorities blamed the blast on a leak of methane gas. Such gases are common in mining, though modern safety measures call for ventilation and other measures to protect workers. AP

Russia attacks Kharkiv, over 20 injured

KYIV

Russia launched new strikes in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv that hit high-rise apartment buildings, leaving at least 21 wounded in a second consecutive nighttime attack. The bombs fell Saturday night on the district of Shevchenkivsky, north of the centre of Kharkiv, which is the second-largest Ukrainian city, local Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said.

Nine residential buildings sustained varying degrees of damage, including 16- and nine-story buildings, he added. The wounded included an 8-year-old child, according to Syniehubov and Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov. Terekhov said that 60 residents were evacuated from one of the buildings. Kharkiv has been a frequent target of Russian attacks since Moscow launched its all-out invasion of neighbouring Ukraine in February 2022. AP

STREAMING NOW

Cricket: SL vs NZ, 1st Test Day 5, 10 am on Sony Sports Ten 5

In Brief

GEORGIA

Historic MMA win for Sangram

Indian wrestler Sangram Singh made his mark in the MMA world by winning his debut fight at the Gama International Fighting Championship. Sangram won in a mere minute and thirty seconds against Pakistani fighter Ali Raza Nasir, became the first Indian male wrestler to win the mixed martial arts fight. Among the eleven competing nations, Sangram's accomplishment represents the fastest win ever registered by an Indian fighter in the 93 kg division.

NEW DELHI

Para shuttlers shine at Indonesia

Umesh Vikram secured gold in the SL3 event, while the trio of Sukant Kadam, Sivarajan Solaimalai, and Mandeep Kaur claimed silver medals in their respective categories at the Indonesia Para-Badminton International on Sunday. Sukant bagged the silver in the men's singles SL4 event, while Sivarajan won the silver in men's singles SH6 category. India delivered a stellar performance in Sarakarta, Indonesia, winning as many as 34 medals.

NEW DELHI

Wolvaardt eyes SA's T20 WC win

After their heartbreak in the final of the women's T20 World Cup 2023 where the Proteas lost by 19 runs against Australia, Skipper Laura Wolvaardt is hoping that her side crosses the final hurdle this time around. "Reaching our first-ever World Cup final in 2023 was a big landmark moment for us. It was a big breaking the barriers and pushing the boundaries' moment for the team. Now we'd like to go that one step further and lift the trophy," Wolvaardt said.

LAHORE

Pak players to attend PCB workshop

Captains Babar Azam and Shan Masood, along with other senior players, will attend a day-long workshop on Monday, convened by the PCB to outline the future vision for Pakistan cricket. The Pakistan Cricket Board has named the day-long workshop the "Strategic Connection Camp," to be held at a local hotel. The meeting will also be joined by national team head coaches Jason Gillespie and Gary Kirsten, assistant coach Azhar Mahmood.

India thump B'desh by 280 runs

Ashwin scalps six wickets in team's impressive win in first Test

India's Ravichandran Ashwin celebrates with teammates after taking 5 wickets in the first Test against Bangladesh on Sunday. —Photo: PTI

PTI
CHENNAI

Veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's mastery over his craft, underlined by a six-wicket haul, proved too immense for Bangladesh as India cantered to a massive 280-run victory in the first Test with five sessions to spare, here on Sunday.

Maintaining a clean slate against the Asian neighbours, India now lead the two-match series 1-0. Starting from their overnight 158 for four, Bangladesh were bundled out for 234 in their second innings as Ashwin scythed through their lineup (6/88). Ravindra Jadeja supported him with a three-wicket haul (3/58).

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto waged a lone battle for the visitors with a sparkling 82 (127b, 8x4, 3x6), but there was hardly any meaningful support for him from his colleagues. The day, however, began on a bright note for the Bangladeshis with Shanto and Shakib Al-Hasan (25) extending their fifth-wicket stand to 48 runs, resisting the Indian bowlers in the first hour. Mohammed Siraj was the standout bowler for India during this phase as he worked up a good pace and hit fine lines.

It left the pacer a frustrated man, evidenced in his constant tirade against Shanto, who remained unruffled. Shakib, who played a lovely front foot pull-off Siraj for a boundary, also received a reprieve as Rishabh Pant missed a stumping chance off Jadeja when the batter was on 17. At the first drinks break of the day, Bangladesh were 194 for four and they might have hoped to further stretch the home side.

However, the introduction of Ashwin immediately after the resumption of play changed the complexion of the proceedings. There was nothing much on the surface for the spinners but Ashwin, who possesses a scientist's acumen, does not need such generosity from the deck or conditions. The Chennai man put into use his ability to find acute angles from around the wicket to left-handers to optimum effect against Shakib.

Ashwin pushed the ball a bit deep and it hit the handle of Shakib's bat as he attempted a forward defence, and the resultant edge went into the eager hands of Yashasvi Jaiswal at backward short leg. Soon, the star off-spinner completed his 37th five-wicket haul, equalling Australian legend Shane Warne, nipping the stay of Mehidy Hasan Miraz (8), who lobbed a catch to Jadeja at long-on.

In the process, Ashwin also went past New Zealand legend Richard Hadlee's five-wicket haul tally – 36. It was also the fourth time the veteran all-rounder took five wickets or more in a Test match alongside a hundred.

Scorecard

INDIA 1ST INNINGS 376
BANGLADESH 1ST INNINGS 149
INDIA 2ND INNINGS 287/4 DECL
BANGLADESH 2ND INNINGS

Zakir Hasan c Jaiswal b Bumrah 33 (47b, 5x4, 1x6), Shadman Islam c Shubman Gill b Ashwin 35 (68b, 3x4), Najmul Hossain Shanto (c) c Bumrah b Jadeja 82 (127b, 8x4, 3x6), Mominul Haque b Ashwin 13 (24b, 3x4), Mushfiqur Rahim c Rahul b Ashwin 13 (11b, 1x4, 1x6), Shakib Al Hasan c Jaiswal b Ashwin 25 (56b, 3x4), Litton Das †c Sharma b Jadeja 1 (10b), Mehidy Hasan Miraz c Jadeja b Ashwin 8 (10b, 1x4), Taskin Ahmed c Mohammed Siraj b Ashwin 5 (4b, 1x4), Hasan Mahmud b Jadeja 7 (14b, 1x4), Nahid Rana no 0 (2b); **Extras:** (b 5, lb 7) **12; Total:** (All out in 62.1 overs) **234; Fall of wickets:** 1-62, 2-86, 3-124, 4-146, 5-194, 6-205, 7-222, 8-222, 9-228, 10-234; **Bowling:** Jasprit Bumrah 10-2-24-1, Mohammed Siraj 10-5-32-0, Akash Deep 6-0-20-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 21-0-88-6, Ravindra Jadeja 15.1-2-58-3

Unchanged Indian team for 2nd Test

CHENNAI

The national selectors on Sunday retained the Indian team, which hammered Bangladesh by 280 runs in the opening Test here, for the second and final match in Kanpur.

The hosts won the first Test with as many as five sessions to spare, and in the run-up to the series opener, there were speculations that few Indian players, including pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, could be rested for the second game as part of the team's workload management programme.

"The Men's Selection Committee has retained the same squad for the second Test of the IDFC FIRST Bank Test series against Bangladesh," the BCCI said in a statement. The second Test will be held in Kanpur from September 27. Speaking ahead of first Test against Bangladesh, skipper Rohit Sharma had said that India would follow the same process they did during the Test series against England earlier this year.

SQUAD: Rohit Sharma (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), R Ashwin, R Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, Yash Dayal. PTI

Stacking up matches, not looking too far ahead: Ashwin

CHENNAI

At 38, Ravichandran Ashwin's preparation for a "tough" long season ahead differs from what it used to be a decade ago, and the star spinner on Sunday admitted that it is now more about taking one match at a time than fitting the whole season in a single frame. Till June, 2025, India will play nine more Tests, including a possible World Test Championship (WTC) Final in vastly differing conditions.

It motivates Ashwin to reinvent himself after each match and be ready for the next challenge. "Like you rightly said, it's a long season. It's tough. Sometimes when you look so far ahead, it can be quite difficult. You're playing like 3-4 months of cricket, and 10 Test matches," Ashwin said. "But sometimes you can't think like that. You have to stack it up (one match at a time). I did put in a bit of work getting into it. I need to have some reserves in the tank," he added.

The Chennaiite also wanted to use the breaks in between Tests or two series to keep himself in the optimum physical condition. "There are good breaks between games. Hopefully, we'll get small windows for me to keep ironing it out (fitness). More than skill, I think it's about physically being able to go through the season which is of utmost importance for me," he noted. Accordingly, Ashwin has tweaked his fitness routine as well. "It's not the same as if you play 25, 26, 30 or even 35. 38 is different to 35. Every bit of work that you put in, you have to put in doubly hard to earn the right to be there.

"So, I have reduced my strength training sessions. I work differently on mobility and other aspects of life. I do a bit of yoga. It's good," he explained. However, the story of Ashwin remains incomplete without the mention of Ravindra Jadeja – his loyal Jean Passepartout in bowling and batting for over a decade now.

Ashwin hogged the limelight for his all-round show – a hundred and six wickets in the Chepauk Test –Jadeja quietly supported him from the other end, bagging five wickets. "He's been a very inspirational story. Many of these occasions over the last 3-4 years, when he's walked in to bat, I feel so calm and composed in the dressing room," Ashwin said. PTI

Want to build team around strong bowling options: Rohit

CHENNAI: Indian captain Rohit Sharma on Sunday emphasised building his team around "strong bowling options" in order to take the conditions out of the equation as they gear up for the challenges that lay ahead in the run-up to the World Test Championship.

Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin completed a memorable all-round outing with a six-wicket haul as a dominant India crushed Bangladesh after Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill struck fluent hundreds. "We want to build our team around strong bowling options, we have to be ready to face whatever the conditions offer," Rohit said. "No matter what the conditions are, whether we play in India, whether we play outside, we want to build the team around that," he added. PTI

India A lift Duleep Trophy

Clinch commanding 132-run win over India C

India A captain Mayank Agarwal receives the Duleep trophy.

ANANTAPUR

Tanush Kotian (3/47) and Prasidh Krishna (3/50) shared six wickets and trumped Sai Sudharsan's valiant 111 as India A defeated India C by 132 runs to win the Duleep Trophy, here on Sunday.

Having entered the final round with six points in two matches and three points behind India C who had nine, the 'A' team showed incredible resolve from the word go and dominated the final contest of the four-day competition. The victory took India A to the top of the points table with a total of 12 points from three matches.

Chasing 350 on the final day, India C were shot out for 217 in 81.5 overs with Krishna returning 3/50 from his 13.5 overs including the final wicket of the game, while Kotian sparking a mini-collapse in the opposition ranks. The contest was placed interestingly at tea with India C reaching 169 for three in pursuit and Sudharsan going strong and Ishan Kishan at the other end, needing another 182 runs in the final session of around 30 overs. However, Kotian had Kishan (17) caught behind and accounted for Abhishek Porel (0) in consecutive overs, while also dismissing Pulkit Narang (6) after a short while. Earlier in the chase, Ruturaj Gaikwad was removed for 44 by Aaquib Khan. Sudharsan produced a knock of high quality as he struck 12 fours to make 111 from 206 balls but he found no support from the other end whatsoever.

Arshdeep shines in India D's win

Arshdeep Singh saved his best for the last game and returned career-best figures of 6 for 40 as India D thrashed India B by 257 runs to end their Duleep Trophy campaign with a consolation victory here on Sunday.

Earlier, India D, who started the final day's play at 244 for 5, ended their second innings at 305, leaving India B with a target of 373 in little over 70 overs.

BRIEF SCORES: India A: 297 & 286 for 6 decl in 66 overs (Riyan Parag 73, Shaswat Rawat 53; Gaurav Yadav 4/68) beat India C 234 & 217 in 81.5 overs (Sai Sudharsan 111, Prasidh Krishna 3/50, Aaquib Khan 2/26, Tanush Kotian 3/47); India D 349 & 305 in 58.3 overs (Ricky Bhui 119, Shreyas Iyer 50, Mukesh Kumar 4/98, Navdeep Saini 3/58) bt India B 282 & 115 in 22.2 overs (Arshdeep Singh 6/40). PTI

Short takes

BOXING LONDON

Dubois beats Joshua to retain IBF heavyweight title

Daniel Dubois is no longer an accidental world heavyweight champion. With a brutal fifth-round knockout of Anthony Joshua at Wembley Stadium, Dubois showed he might be the real deal — and the future of boxing's marquee division. Dubois roared to the comeback after dominating the all-British title fight to complete his quest to legitimize his status as a heavyweight titleholder, three months after gaining the IBF belt vacated by Oleksandr Usyk.

FOOTBALL MILAN

Conte's return to Juventus starts with boos and ends 0-0

Antonio Conte's return to Juventus and into a packed stadium started with jeers for the former Bianconeri hero. It ended 0-0 between Juventus and Conte's Napoli, which created the better chances on Saturday in Turin. A third straight goalless draw for Juventus in Serie A ended a run of three wins for Napoli. Conte, who also played for Juventus for 13 years, led the Bianconeri to the first three of its nine consecutive Serie A titles before leaving in acrimonious circumstances in 2014.

CRICKET NEW DELHI

"Bumrah, Pant's fitness and form key to India's chances in Australia"

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and flamboyant wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant must remain injury-free and in top form if India are to achieve a historic hat-trick of series wins Down Under, said former Australia captain Ian Chappell. "...India's priority will be to get as many players as possible into form without suffering major injuries. However, the most pressing matters are to achieve those aims with Jasprit Bumrah and Rishabh Pant," Chappell said.

GOLF CARROLLTON

Lee beats Bryson DeChambeau to deny Crushers title

Danny Lee took control of a back-and-forth match against US Open champion Bryson DeChambeau by holing a hard-breaking birdie putt on the 16th hole to lead his Iron Heads past DeChambeau's defending champion Crushers in the LIV Golf Team Championship. Iron Heads joined Legion XIII, Ripper and 4Aces in Sunday's stroke-play finals. "Like I've said all week, in match play anything can happen," said Iron Heads captain Kevin Na.

GOLF MAINEVILLE

Thitikul expands her lead to 2 shots over Lydia Ko

Jeeno Thitikul had a rocky closing stretch but did enough to expand her lead over Hall of Famer Lydia Ko, finishing with a birdie for a 4-under 68 and a two-shot advantage in the Kroger Queen City Championship. Thitikul holed a 20-footer from the fringe for birdie on the par-4 15th hole to reach 5 under for the day and 17 under for the tournament, four shots ahead of Ko, before dropping shots on the next two holes. She closed with a birdie on the par-5 18th at TPC River's Bend.

In Brief

BRIGHTON

10-man Forest hold Brighton

Brighton and Hove Albion were held to a 2-2 draw by ten-man Nottingham Forest on Sunday. Forest's Chris Wood scored from the spot-kick in the 13th minute. Brighton leveled in the 42nd minute via Jack Hinshelwood, then Danny Welbeck scored in the 45th minute. Forest equalised through Roman Sosa with 20 minutes remaining.

KOCHI

ISL: Blasters beat East Bengal

Kerala Blasters came back from a goal down to beat East Bengal 2-1 in their Indian Super League (ISL) match at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Sunday. East Bengal took the lead in the 59th minute through Vishnu Puthiya before the Blasters pumped in two goals in the final 30 minutes through Noah Sadaoui (63rd) and Kwame Peprah (88th).

BARCELONA

Vinicius wins it for Real Madrid

Joan García showed why he is an up-and-coming goalkeeper — until got the Real Madrid scoring. Vinícius went off the bench to assist Rodrygo and score one of his own and Kylian Mbappé added a late penalty as Madrid topped Espanyol 4-1 in the Spanish league. The visitors took the lead after own goal by Thibaut Courtois in the 54th minute.

Praggnanandhaa R focuses during the final round of the 45th Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary on Sunday — Photo: PTI

Indian Kings and Queens rule the world

Men, women win maiden gold medals in Chess Olympiad

PTI
BUDAPEST

India on Sunday scripted history in the Chess Olympiad as its men's and women's teams clinched their maiden titles in a rare clean sweep of gold medals after beating their respective opponents in the final round here.

The Indian men's team defeated Slovenia 3.5-0.5 while their women counterparts also crushed Azerbaijan with an identical margin in the 11th and final round in the 45th edition of the Chess Olympiad that concluded here. Only China and erstwhile Soviet Union had won both men's and women's gold medals in the same edition of the Chess Olympiad.

Indian men had earlier won two bronze medals -- in 2014 and 2022 -- in the tournament, while the women had bagged a bronze in the 2022 edition held in Chennai. The 18-year-old World Championship challenger D Gukesh and 21-year-old Arjun Erigaise yet again delivered in key games while R Praggnanandhaa, 19, regained form too in the final round to ensure a smooth victory for India in the open section. On the fourth board, Vidit Gujrathi, 29, played out an inconsequential draw to give the team another resounding victory. "I feel great, especially with the quality of my games and how we played as a team," Gukesh said.

Chess legend Viswanathan Anand, who has won five World Championships titles, was present at the arena to watch the next generation of Indian players ruling over the world.

Divya Deshmukh during the final round of the 45th Chess Olympiad in Budapest. —Photo: AP/PTI

Vantika Agrawal and Gukesh D in action during their final round games. —Photo: AP/PTI

Norris wins Singapore GP

Cuts Verstappen's lead as he settles for 2nd

SINGAPORE

Mclaren driver Lando Norris survived a couple of brushes with barriers as he won the Singapore Grand Prix with ease and cut into Red Bull's Max Verstappen's Formula 1 standings lead Sunday.

Norris started on pole position ahead of Verstappen and steadily built a large lead. There were two brief moments of jeopardy when the McLaren driver first locked his brakes and touched the barriers, prompting concern he'd damaged the front wing, and later when a rear tire brushed another but Norris seemed largely unaffected as he cruised to the win.

Verstappen came in second for Red Bull after a race that was largely uneventful after he held off Lewis Hamilton into the first corner at the start.

Oscar Piastri, the winner for McLaren in Azerbaijan last week, moved up from fifth on the grid to finish third after passing Mercedes' Hamilton and later George Russell for the final podium place. AP

McLaren's Lando Norris celebrates after winning the Singapore GP at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore on Sunday.

Shuttler Anmol secures Poland International

NEW DELHI

The talented Anmol Kharb achieved a remarkable feat by securing her second consecutive title on Sunday, winning the Poland International with a straight-game victory over Switzerland's Milena Schnider in the women's singles final held in Lublin.

The 17-year-old, who clinched her maiden international title at the Belgian International the previous week, produced yet another dominant show in the $ 5,000 tournament, outclassing the seventh seed Schnider with a commanding 21-12, 21-8 triumph in the final. PTI

Dhruv clinches badminton title

Dhruv Singh (right) with coach Pratap Kumar.

SPORTS BUREAU
Hyderabad

Dhruv Singh of Krishnaveni High School, Abids, Hyderabad won the U-14 singles title at the 68th Inter-School Badminton Tournament, organised by Hyderabad District School Games Federation at Lal Bahadur Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad on Sunday.

Dhruv, who is being coached by Pratap Kumar, is gearing up for upcoming Inter-District Tournament.

RESULTS: 1. Dhruv Singh, 2. Darsh Goel, 3. Pabu Shivansh.

'TDCA committed to rural cricket'

SPORTS BUREAU
Hyderabad

Telangana Districts Cricket Association (TDCA) president and former SATS chairman Allipuram Venkateshwar Reddy emphasised the need for district-level cricket academies with modern facilities across Telangana to foster the state's cricket development.

Speaking at the "Telangana Cricket Dasha-Disha" round table meet held at the Press Club, Hyderabad on Sunday, with SATG chairman K Shiva Sena Reddy as chief guest, the TDCA chief stressed the importance of statewide representation in the Telangana team. "Rural cricket has faced challenges for decades. It's crucial that the state team reflects talent from every district. We are dedicated to fostering rural cricket's growth," he said.

Horoscope

J U B Sastry

ARIES
Aries (March 21-April 20)

With Saturn in retrogression, the day has the capacity to force you to take wrong decisions. You may become a victim of being misinformed by people around you. As the day progresses, you may be in a hurry to decide on issues but make sure you are not acting on falsified information. Ensure that your information network churns out facts.

TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

The day's celestial influences may give you good relief from long-time stress. You will feel great over successfully completing the tasks entrusted by higher-ups. If you are an official working on deputation in a new place, you will hear good things on pending request to be allowed to go back. You may feel excited over the development.

GEMINI
(May 22- June 21)

You may feel you have become a victim of mind game played by rivals at work place. You may suspect that some antagonistic forces are out to denigrate your standing and stature. But, thinking more of it, you may be psychologically down with a pigment of imagination about professional rivals. Try to pull up your socks and see the practicality around.

CANCER
(June 22- July 22)

You may be a team leader at work place. As a team leader, it is your responsibility to treat all people around you equally. Don't get offended if somebody says that you were impartial when you became the team leader but later on you used to prioritize people and extend favored treatment to some. If that is not true, prove yourself otherwise.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 23)

Don't change priorities on somebody's advice as it sends a clear message that you are inconsistent in attitude and ideas. You are therefore advised to stick to the day's commitments. You have to remember that you will lose image among friends and family members if you keep changing opinions. Don't behave as if you are weak-minded with no decision-making abilities.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

You may be part of a group dedicated to achieving certain social goals. But you may largely differ with others in the group occasionally pointing out their mistakes. It may give an impression that you are differing with them off and on for selfish purposes. If you want to have a clean image, do something great that would benefit others.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

You may repent that you should not have acted on an issue that you have acted. It seems you are unable to digest some decisions that you took at work place. You will realize that you have failed to foresee the adverse consequences of your decisions. So, if you are in the habit of acting in impulse, give up that habit.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

It seems your clarification on some tasks is pending at work place. If you have done something wrong resulting in adverse repercussions, you don't have to hesitate in being outspoken and tendering regrets for the lapses. Don't try to cover up mistakes and put the blame on somebody else. Keep in mind that your honesty will not go unpaid.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

You will ride on a wave of positive thought process. You will feel that you are receiving more than what you deserve at work place and this will keep you hooked to the work with dedication. You will also realise that most of your colleagues are very cordial towards you. You will end the day aiming at tomorrow's goals and needs.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

With debilitated Mars trying to control affairs in financial sector, you may face paucity of funds and plan to fill coffers through hand loans. There may be some sort of unrest in family over your inept handling of financial issues. At work place, your decisions and actions may please some while discouraging some others. It may not good.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

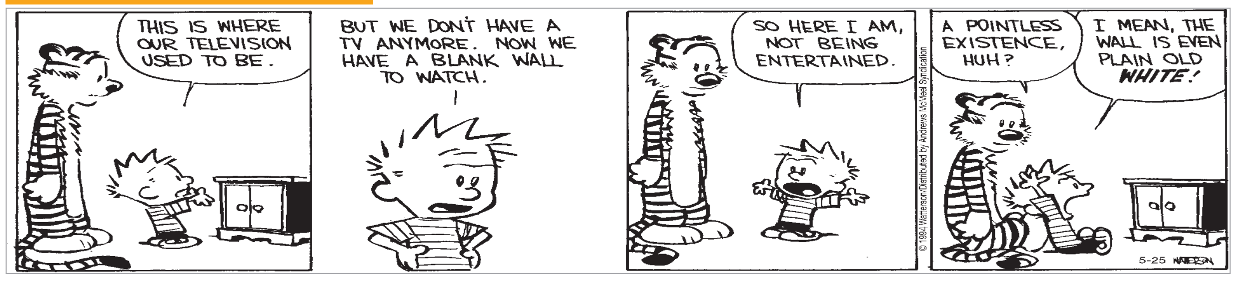
With Saturn in control, you will continue to be the talk of the town. Your ideas and suggestions will be taken seriously by people around and you may draw attention of some sections of media. Your proposals may become the subject of discussion and your stature graph may go up. Your assertions will produce strong answers to problems of others.

PISCES
(Feb. 20-March 20)

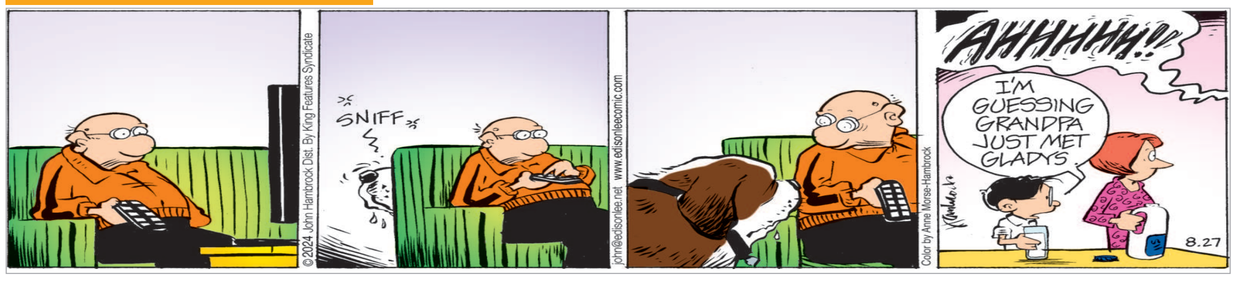
The going will be easy in your sphere of activity and you will dare to think that things are under control. Friends, colleagues and cousins will stand by you in your endeavors and boost up confidence levels. You will have clarity of thought on what you do and what you need for future. Wherever you are, you will find the ambience encouraging.

COMIC STRIPS

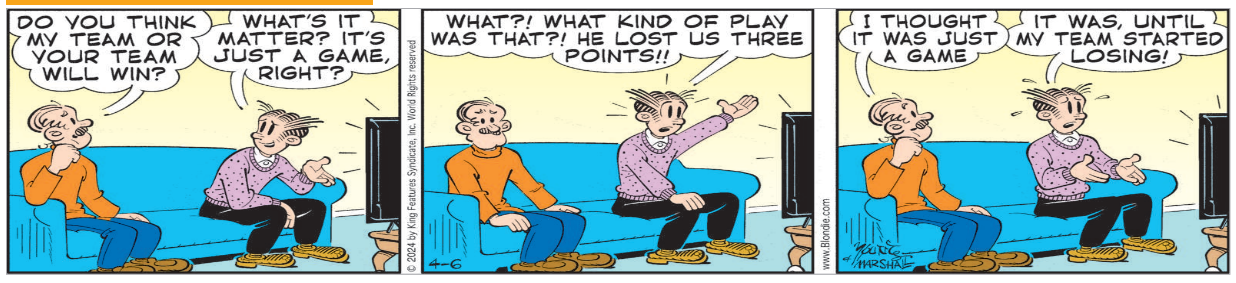
CALVIN & HOBBES



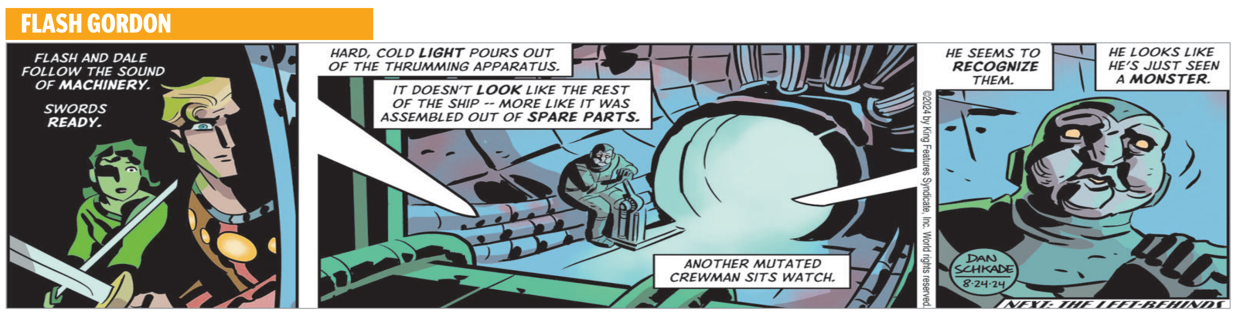
EDISON LEE



BLONDIE



FLASH GORDON



News from
ENTERTAINMENT

CLASSIC MOVIE

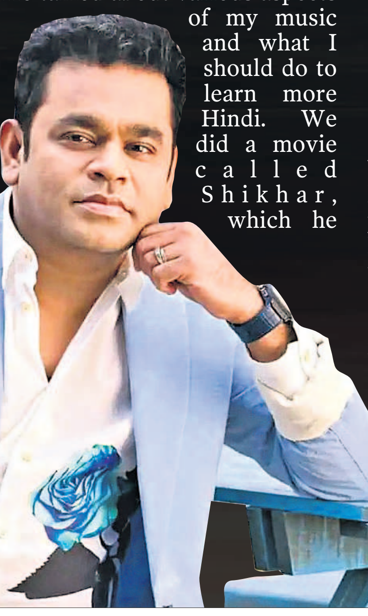
‘*TAAL* FILLED THE VOID’

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER OFFERED AR RAHMAN *BOMBAY DREAMS* AFTER LISTENING TO ROMANCE DRAMA’ S SOUNDTRACK, SAYS MAESTRO

Celebrated musician AR Rahman says it was his work on Subhash Ghai’s musical romance drama *Taal* that led him to compose for Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Bollywood-themed musical *Bombay Dreams*, which catapulted him to international recognition.

The multiple award winning-composer said filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, who served as an executive producer on Webber’s 2002 musical *Bombay Dreams*, played the English impresario of musical theatre the soundtrack of *Taal*, which clocked 25 years in August. Rahman, who had already made a name for himself across India with Tamil movies such as *Roja* and *Bombay*, said Ghai’s film helped him reach out to a whole new section of audience. “It was the soundtrack of *Taal*, which Mr Kapur played to Andrew Lloyd Webber, and hearing the songs of *Taal*, he wanted me to work on *Bombay Dreams*. I was no longer called a ‘South Indian, doing only Tamil music’ and all that stuff,” he said.

“Even though *Roja* and *Bombay* had crossed that stuff. I also felt that there was a little more space to go into it, and *Taal* perfectly filled the void. If you look at *Amar Singh Chamkila*, it is pure Punjabi (music). The confidence comes from working on all these movies,” Rahman said. He was speaking on the sidelines of a special screening of *Taal*, organised by Radio Nasha. The composer later ventured into the international music scene, transcending geographical boundaries and captivating global audiences with his compositions in prominent productions such as Kapur’s *Elizabeth - The Golden Age, Couples Retreat* and *Slumdog Millionaire*, which made him the first Indian to win two Oscars, *127 Hours, People Like Us, Warriors of Heaven & Earth* and *Million Dollar Arm*, among others.



Rahman shared another anecdote about how he went on to become a part of 1999’s *Taal*, which will be re-released in select theatres across India on September 27. During the 1990s, the 57-year-old said everyone he met would tell him to do a Hindi film with Ghai. Rahman’s first Hindi film was 1995’s *Rangeela*, directed by Ram Gopal Varma.

“And then boom, when this fax came. I was like ‘Wow, the man himself sent the fax’. He invited me to Mumbai and we hung out. He talked about various aspects of my music and what I should do to learn more Hindi. We did a movie called Shikhar, which he launched but it didn’t happen (release). And then we did *Taal*,” the composer said.

Taal, starring Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Akshaye Khanna and Anil Kapoor, continues to be widely loved for its soulful melodies such as *Taal Se Taal Mila* and *Ishq Bina*, the meditative *Nahin Saamne Tu* to the electrifying dance number *Ramta Jogi*. Creating its soundtrack didn’t take much time, said Rahman, adding that the film provided him a platform to explore new dimensions in music.

“He (Ghai) would say, ‘I want a symphony and then I would go and do some stuff or I want this to be a mountain folk song’. So, I was like, ‘My sensibilities are also expanding’. Coming from the South, I was always open to what else is there to do (in terms of music). For instance, in *Roja*, I had used Hindustani ragas and not Carnatic ragas. I wanted it (music) to have a different feel. So, I became a fan of Darbari, Bhairavi and Des ragas, which was not common in the south of India. So, that (*Roja*) was more on the classical side, this (*Taal*) is more on the folk and Punjabi side,” Rahman added. PTI

Marco’s 2nd poster unveiled on Mukundan’s birthday

On the occasion of Unni Mukundan’s birthday, the makers of *Marco* released the second look poster. Mukundan, known to Telugu audiences for his roles in *Janata Garage, Bhaagamathie* and *Malikappuram*, is seen in the poster holding a man’s cleaved head in his blood-soaked hand, which is burning in fire. The intense visual hints at a violent, action-packed film.

The posters were unveiled in Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil and Kannada. With the caption: “Here’s Wishing A KickAss Birthday To our Ultimate Maverick. As promised, We bring you The Unni Mukundan, like Never Before. Marco Is Blazing and Unni Mukundan is Literally on Fire! The Villain You Knew, The Hero You Gonna Meet, Bloody Soon.”

Marco is a pan-India film directed by Haneef Adeni and co-produced by Mukundan and Shareef Muhammed. The character Marco, first introduced in the film Mikhael, gained immense fame, leading to the creation of a full-length movie centred around him.

— *Pratyusha Sista*

Hrithik congratulates *Stree 2* team

Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan has praised the makers of the superhit horror comedy *Stree 2* on its success, saying he hopes the film industry continues to have more such happy times in cinema halls.

Stree 2, written by Niren Bhatt and produced under Dinesh Vijan’s banner Maddock Films, is nearing the Rs 600-crore mark at the domestic box office.

“It is such a happy time for our Cinema with *Stree 2* setting new benchmarks for all of us to look up to. Stree part 1 was brilliant and the idea of taking that seed and building a universe and watching it all come together in Stree 2 is applause worthy. Bravo to the teams that brought this to celluloid. You guys are true stars. Congratulations Dinesh Vijan, @MaddockFilms, @jiostudios, @amarkaushik, @nirenbhatt and the entire cast & crew! May we continue to have many more such happy times at the movies,” Hrithik wrote in an X post.

The official handle of Maddock Films responded: “Thank you so much @iHrithik! The universe just got bigger with your love!” PTI

Vir wants to go desi for Emmys, calls for budding designers

Actor and star comedian Vir Das, who is the first Indian to host the International Emmy Awards, has called out for budding designers, labels and students to put together an Indian or Indo-western fusion ensemble as he does not need tuxedo.

On Sunday morning, Vir took to X where he dropped a note about how he wants to wear “something Indian from home”.

He wrote: “Alright Folks, I am going to be the first Indian to host the International Emmy Awards. I’m going to wear something Indian from home. I’m also not going to wear a fancy designer. They have enough cash and clients. So we’re gonna launch someone new.”

He then called out aspirants: “So if you’re a budding designer, label, student, and you can put together super formal stuff. Send us an email at contact@zazuproduction.com I would attach details on your stuff and experience please. We get a lot of emails. I want to be clear.”

Vir, who took home the International Emmy award for his show *Landing* last year, said it is “super duper ultra formal wear at a very high level for a very large audience”. “You have to make me look good in formal wear which is a task I assure you. It HAS TO BE INDIAN OR INDO-WESTERN FUSION. I do not need a tuxedo. We will pay you for your work, pay for the outfit and credit you. You will have to work with my team to get the vision and design right. Cheers, V.”

> Takes to X where he drops a note about how he wants to wear “something Indian from home”

It was on September 12, when he was announced as the host and at that time, he said it was “deeply personal” to return to the International Emmy. The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences will take place on November 25 in New York. IANS

When Salim Khan spoke about Big B’s rough patch

Veteran screenwriter Salim Khan of the Salim-Javed duo once spoke about the rough patch in veteran Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan’s life.

An archival footage, shared by Lehren, shows Salim deconstructing the impact of setbacks on the life of Big B.

He said, “I’m not a psychiatrist so, I can’t pinpoint and specifically tell what went wrong with Amitabh Bachchan. I’m not very close to him at the moment, I once was. I have done some 14-15 films with him. Many a time it happens that a person becomes so habitual of winning that when they lose it comes as a shocker.”

He further mentioned, “I’ll give you an example, if Sri Lanka wins a cricket match, it comes off as a surprise that they won. If West Indies loses a match that comes off as a surprise too. Amitabh Bachchan became so habitual of winning that even a minor setback or a failure had a deep impact on him, and he didn’t take it very well”.

> **Amitabh became so habitual of winning that even a minor setback had a deep impact on him...**
>
> — SALIM KHAN

The video appears to be from the 80s or early 90s when Big B was neck-deep in trouble. In the 1980s, VCR made its way to India as a technological advancement in the field of entertainment which led to a crisis in the Hindi film industry, the wave took a toll on Big B’s stardom as well.

Then in the mid-1980s, Big B got embroiled in the alleged Bofors scandal, implicating Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and several other members of the Indian and Swedish governments. Big B, on his part, has however maintained that his name was “planted” in the scandal.

Later, when Big B left behind the shadow of the Bofors ‘scandal’, he got drowned in huge debts when his production house Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Limited incurred huge losses. The production house ran into debt after the failure of the 1996 edition of the Miss World beauty pageant. That was the lowest point of Big B as he had more than Rs 100 crore in debt to lend to creditors. It was the quiz-based reality show *Kaun Banega Crorepati* that bailed him out of troubled waters.

Meanwhile, Salim Khan, who is the father of Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, was recently seen in the streaming documentary *Angry Young Men* along with his writing partner Javed Akhtar. IANS

‘Powerhouse of a woman’: Rashmika rubs shoulders with Donatella Versace

Actress Rashmika Mandanna, who was a guest at the Spring-Summer 2025 fashion show, posed with Italian fashion designer Donatella Versace and thanked her for showing what a powerhouse of a woman she is.

Rashmika, who was a guest for the luxury label Versace’s fashion show, took to Instagram, where she shared a picture posted by Donatella on her Instagram handle.

Donatella had posted a slew of images with personalities such as Hyunjinn, Lusi Zhao, Vittoria Ceretti, Mona Tougaard, Kun, Normani and Rashmika to name a few. For the caption, she wrote: “My house, my rules, my Versace after party! Love you all.”

Sharing her picture on her Instagram stories, Rashmika, who wore an ivory hued blazer dress, wrote: “donatella_versace what an absolute pleasure it was to have met you.. You are truly special! Thankyou for inspiring us and showing us what a powerhouse of a woman you truly are!”

Donatella is the sister of Gianni Versace, founder of the luxury fashion company Versace, with whom she worked closely on the brand. After Gianni died in 1997, Donatella inherited a portion of the Versace brand and became its creative director.

Recently, Rashmika shared details about her relatable “extreme personalities” involving working out at odd hours and days when she feels like “couch potatoing”. She took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a picture of herself in bed and smiling at the camera. IANS

THROWBACK CLIP

When Nimrat rode a camel

Actress Nimrat Kaur shared a throwback glimpse of herself enjoying a camel ride in the desert. Nimrat took to Instagram, where she posted two videos enjoying the ride.

RAVISHING

Kriti sports trench coat

Actress Kriti Sanon shared pictures of herself from the recently concluded London Fashion Week.

DAUGHTER’S DAY

Karan’s kids steal the show

Bollywood multi-hyphenate Karan Johar is celebrating equality on National Daughter’s Day. But his kids stole the show with their wish.

INDIAN STREET FOOD

Siddhant, the big foodie

Actor Siddhant Chaturvedi is a big foodie and is fond of Indian street food. “I love trying cuisines, but I'm fond of Indian street food,” he says.

RED CARPET

Aryan Khan turns dapper

Actor Shah Rukh Khan’s son looked every-inch dapper as he walked the red carpet for a bar launch in New Delhi. He wore a dark hued hoodie with a t-shirt.